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LD191433 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Situation in Territories—Security forces have been ordered to use "force, might, and blows" to prevent demonstrations in the territories, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio 19 January. He maintained that there is no shortage of food in refugee camps currently under curfew. UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding had earlier complained that the IDF was preventing UN relief supplies from entering the camps, according to the radio. Meanwhile, security sources cited by the radio asserted that Goulding's visits to refugee camps "did not contribute to restoring calm."

Jerusalem radio noted that the situation was relatively calm over the weekend except for a large demonstration in Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque 15 January. In an interview with the radio, Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said the security forces had used tear gas grenades to disperse the "serious rioting" on the Temple Mount during which a border policeman was beaten up by protestors. Nevertheless, he contended that "on no occasion" was tear gas used inside the mosque or any other building. This version of events contradicted PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's contention in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio that Israeli security forces had assaulted worshippers inside Al-Aqsa and the Dome of the Rock with tear gas and gunfire. The new clandestine "Al-Quds" radio carried Palestinian statements accusing Israel of using U.S.-made gas grenades that cause "suffocation" and miscarriages for pregnant women.

Political Developments—Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir dismissed a call by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres for early elections, THE JERUSALEM POST reported, noting Shamir's view that this would damage and weaken Israel in the eyes of the Arabs. Shamir was responding to Peres' 18 January statement to Jerusalem radio that early elections are "a possibility" in light of the current deadlock in the government. In another development, the radio noted that Shlomo Lahat, the Likud mayor of Tel Aviv, has called for Israel to hand over the West Bank and Gaza to Jordan as they are a "burden" to Israel. Circles close to Shamir told IDF radio that Lahat should not be allowed to remain in the Likud if he continues to propound such ideas.

Reaction to UNSC Vote—A Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Jerusalem radio expressed Israel's satisfaction with the U.S. veto of a Security Council motion condemning Israeli air attacks in Lebanon. Israel is likewise satisfied with Britain's decision to abstain, he added.

Lebanon

End to Camps War—Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri announced that he has informed Palestinian officials of Amal's decision "to end the so-called camps war and to restore unity between the Lebanese and Palestinians," the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported 16 January. Speaking after a meeting with a delegation representing various Palestinian factions, Birri said this was in accordance with Amal's desire to "bless the uprising in the occupied territories and to express our deep appreciation." A Palestinian official cited by the radio lauded Birri's "noble stand," noting that Birri informed the Palestinians of Amal's intention to end its military presence around the refugee camps and to lift the siege "for good." Indicating that this would be a unilateral move, the official added that Amal has decided to let the Palestinians "deal with the situation east of Sidon."

The PNSF expressed appreciation for Birri's initiative in a statement broadcast by the clandestine Al-Quds radio. A PFLP official cited by Voice of Lebanon radio also welcomed Birri's move, calling for the formation of joint committees involving Amal, Palestinians, and Syrian observers to ensure its implementation.

Terry Waite—Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah's office issued a statement describing a 17 January London SUNDAY EXPRESS report on an interview with Fadlallah as "fabricated and false," the Voice of Lebanon reported. The interview had cited Fadlallah as saying Waite will not be released until after the U.S. presidential election, the radio noted. The British ambassador to Lebanon subsequently disclosed that he is holding contacts with persons who have links with Waite's kidnappers, but he stressed that Britain has nothing to offer the kidnappers, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. A "highly placed source" cited by Beirut radio asserted that prospects for Waite's early release are "bleak" because of the British Government's refusal to bargain and because of Waite's importance to his kidnappers.

Army Ban Lifted—An Army Command statement broadcast by Beirut radio 15 January announced an end to the ban on shipping in the PSP-controlled coastline between Khaldah and the Al-Awwali River. The statement said the blockade was lifted in response to the transfer of a hijacked military helicopter to the Army's 11th Brigade.

Syria

Genscher Visit—President Hafiz al-Asad received visiting FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher "in a friendly atmosphere" 16 January, according to Damascus radio. The station added that Genscher voiced the FRG Government's thanks for Syria's efforts to obtain the freedom of hostages in Lebanon and expressed appreciation for Syria's "important and positive role" in the Middle East and in furthering peace and security in the Gulf. Al-Asad pointed out the role that the FRG and EC can play toward establishing Middle East peace.

Before leaving Syria, Genscher characterized his talks with President al-Asad as "valuable and useful," adding that the FRG economic cooperation minister will visit Damascus in March for economic talks, Damascus radio reported. DPA cited Al-Asad as giving assurances of "continued efforts" toward the release of German hostage Rudolph Cordes.

Meanwhile, a MENA report citing the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD disclosed that before starting his visit to Syria, Genscher "reached an understanding" with Syria on the release of Cordes, through Syrian mediation between the FRG and the kidnappers. The report added that Cordes was expected to be freed "in the next few days." However, Voice of Lebanon radio cited a report by the Beirut magazine AL-SHIRA' that secret negotiations to secure Cordes' release have come to a "standstill." According to the report, the kidnappers are waiting for the outcome of the ongoing trial in the FRG of 'Abbas Hamadah.

Gulf War Mediation—Syria is still willing to mediate in the Gulf war but would like EC recognition and a resumption of economic aid in return, Information Minister Muhammad Salman told DPA. The minister added that his government has been receiving assurances from Tehran since December that the Iranians will "neither attack the interests of the Gulf states nor continue the offensive on Iraq's southern front."

In contrast, Voice of Lebanon radio, citing "diplomatic information," reported that Syrian efforts to halt the war are facing "stumbling blocks." The station noted that the resumption of Iraqi and Iranian attacks on shipping shows that the mediation has been "ineffective."

"Spies" Executed—Three "spies" who "sold themselves to the Israeli enemy for a handful of dollars" were executed in Damascus 18 January, SANA reported.

Iran-Iraq War

New Iranian Operation—IRGC forces launched a new operation near Mawat in the northern Iraqi province of Al-Sulaymaniyah on 15 January, IRNA reported. A 19 January communique cited by Tehran radio indicated the Iranian forces had "liberated" over 145 square km of territory in the region and inflicted more than 4,000 Iraqi casualties since the operation began. For Iraq's part, a military spokesman told INA that Iraqi forces have "contained the Iranian offensive completely" and that the Iranian forces are facing "fatigue and collapse." The spokesman maintained that Iraqi forces have been in "full control" of the Mawat area for 4 days.

Shipping Attacks—Iranian gunboats attacked three vessels in a 24-hour period, AFP reported 16 January. An attack on a Norwegian tanker 15 January was followed by attacks on two Liberian-registered tankers, the last of these causing "fairly serious" damage. Tehran radio cited REUTER on two of the attacks, saying they were carried out by "gunboats."

Korean Silkworm Denial—A KCNA commentary dismissed as "groundless" U.S. newspaper reports that Chinese-made Silkworm missiles were supplied to Iran by the DPRK. The commentary branded the reports "sheer fabrication" and part of a "brazen smear campaign."

Iran

Four people were executed in Tehran and Bakhtaran 17 January for having carried out espionage and bomb attacks on behalf of Iraq, IRNA announced.

Iraqi, Jordanian Gulf Diplomacy

Iraqi official 'Izzat Ibrahim visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia over the weekend, INA reported, noting that in his meeting with King Fahd, the latter reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's support for Iraq and "highly valued" its initiatives to unify Arab ranks.

A Jordanian envoy also flew to Riyadh over the weekend to deliver a message from King Husayn, Amman radio reported. The envoy subsequently visited Kuwait and other GCC countries, KUNA noted.

Egypt

Mubarak's Tour—President Husni Mubarak arrived in Baghdad 15 January, following his 6-nation Gulf tour, MENA reported. Mubarak met with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and briefed him on the results of the consultations held with the GCC leaders. The talks also touched on efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598; the Amman Summit results, "particularly efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria"; and the promotion of bilateral relations. MENA also noted that Husayn asked Mubarak "to raise a number of specific points" with U.S. and European leaders during his coming tour.

Before leaving Baghdad on 16 January, Mubarak met with Yasir 'Arafat, MENA said. The two discussed the "uprising" in the occupied territories and Egyptian efforts regarding the Palestinian issue and an international Middle East peace conference.

During a brief stopover in Al 'Aqabah en route home, the president conferred with Jordanian King Husayn, Amman radio reported. In a statement reported by MENA, Mubarak said that King Husayn had briefed him on the king's recent trip to the USSR. The discussions also focused on the president's upcoming visit to the United States and Europe and on ways of "giving more impetus" to the Palestinian issue. Mubarak assessed his talks with the Arab leaders he met as "successful and very useful," and as demonstrating "splendid and overflowing fraternal sentiments for Egypt."

PLO on Rafah Incident—The PLO representative in Cairo has "categorically denied" Israeli reports that Egyptian security forces fired on Palestinian demonstrators in Rafah last week, MENA reported. The official said the reports are aimed at "creating a rift" in Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

Sudan

Reports of Failed Coup—Monitored Sudanese media have not been observed to confirm Lebanese radio reports of an 18 January coup attempt in Sudan. Both Voice of Lebanon radio and Radio Free Lebanon cited reports from Khartoum that security forces had foiled a coup attempt, arresting a group who planned to "destabilize" the country.

Iraqi Opposition Figure Killed—Mahdi al-Hakim, the number two man in the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Iraqi opposition, was shot and killed in a Khartoum hotel 17 January, SUNA reported, citing AL-USBU'. According to Omdurman radio, two gunmen, described by eyewitnesses as "foreigners," escaped in a car. Interior Minister Ahmad al-Husayn said that Sudan refuses to be used by foreign political quarters "as a ground to settle their accounts," MENA reported. The agency added that Khartoum airport was closed immediately after the incident.

In Tehran, an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement condemned the killing, ascribing it to the "Iraqi Ba'thist regime's agents," Tehran radio reported.

Ethiopian Troops on Border—Eastern Region Governor Muhammad 'Uthman Karrar announced that Ethiopian troops have been stationed along the border with Sudan, SUNA reported 18 January. Discounting Ethiopian claims of anti-Ethiopian rebels in this area, the governor countered that this was a pretext for supporting SPLA rebels.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Tunisia Visit Postponed—Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche indicated that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's planned visit to Tunisia has been postponed, according to a 16 January KUNA report citing AL-QABAS.

Ugandan President's Visit—Col al-Qadhdhafi received visiting Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni 17 January, Tripoli radio reported.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speech—In a 16 January speech to the Supreme National Reconciliation Commission in Kabul, President Najibullah stated that an election law will be completed "in the very near future," and that an election campaign will then begin, Kabul radio reported. Asserting that the opposition forces will be able to "correctly assess" the possibility of their participation in creating a new government, the president said he expected them to take part. On the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country, Najibullah declared "we expect success" at the Geneva talks and the withdrawal "will take place in 1988."

British "Adviser" Killed—A British "adviser" to the Afghan rebels was "recently" killed in Afghanistan during military operations, Kabul radio announced 18 January. The report added that another British citizen, who had earlier been sent to Afghanistan under a "secret agreement," had also been killed.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Emergency Session Set for 23 Jan

NC151453 Paris AFP in English 1440 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Tunis, Jan 15 (AFP)—The foreign ministers of the 21-member Arab League will meet January 23 in an emergency session to discuss Palestinian unrest in the Israeli-occupied territories, League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said Friday.

Mr Klibi said the meeting had been advanced from January 24, as was previously announced, for scheduling reasons. League sources explained that the Arab Parliamentary Union was to meet on the 24th.

Libya had called for a meeting of the foreign ministers to denounce Israeli use of force in the West Bank and Gaza Strip where at least 34 Palestinians have been fatally shot during five weeks of clashes with Israeli security forces.

During a meeting with foreign press correspondents here, Mr Klibi declined to speculate on what decisions could emerge from next week's meeting.

"The essential thing is to stress that Israeli occupation twenty years later is totally rejected internally (in the occupied territories) and abroad as well as by a group of people inside Israeli society whom we should encourage," Mr Klibi told the news conference.

Mr Klibi reiterated calls for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations as a step towards resolving the Middle East crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on UN Resolutions, Peace Conference

JN151929 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today reiterated his acceptance of all UN resolutions, including 242 and 338, for the sake of attaining the Palestinian people's goals. Speaking at a news conference in Baghdad late this afternoon, 'Arafat said the Israelis want to select and accept some resolutions but not all of them. He stressed that all resolutions are an organic whole and cannot be interpreted or divided in favor of one party over another.

He declared his readiness to negotiate with the Israeli enemy at a UN-sponsored international conference to be attended by the PLO on an equal footing with all other parties and by the UN Security Council permanent member states. He added: We will all go to negotiate with the enemies whether directly or indirectly. He said that the PLO has previously negotiated the exchange of prisoners with Israel via the Red Cross. 'Arafat stressed the PLO's adherence to convening a UN-sponsored international conference to resolve the Palestine question and asserted: I have declared my stand and Israel should declare its acceptance of an international conference. He challenged Israel to declare such a stand.

He added: The United States should also declare its stand toward an international conference to resolve the Palestine question. He said that the military rulers of Israel do not accept any peace initiative.

Replying to questions, 'Arafat noted that the declaration of a provisional Palestinian government is now under study and that the PLO political and legal committees are studying it. Moreover, he said, the subject requires contacts with friends and brothers before a final decision is made.

The Palestinian leader stressed his adherence to international legality and stated: We always support international legality and this is the stand of all regional organizations except Israel.

The PLO Executive Committee chairman welcomed yesterday's UN Security Council resolution on the deported Palestinians and said: I consider this resolution a positive sign from the U.S. Administration, which refrained from using its veto for the third time in 3 weeks. He added that the resolution is also a new diplomatic success for the Palestinian people along the path of struggle to establish their free and independent state on the land of Palestine.

He renewed his appeal for international protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territory and noted: We are now pressing for the dispatch of UN forces to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as a prelude to peace. He announced that the PLO has embarked on intensive and extensive contacts with its friends to obtain a UN Security Council resolution on the dispatch of such forces. He said that the replies the PLO has received concentrated on the U.S. veto and the possibility of using it to foil the dispatch of such forces.

'Arafat rejected a new offer proposed by the so-called confederation in the Israeli Labor Party to set up autonomy in the West Bank and to internationalize the Gaza Strip. He said: Our country is not for sale or rent. We want to end occupation and set up our Palestinian state just like all other states. 'Arafat noted that this is the fourth Israeli offer in less than a month.

PLO's 'Arafat Receives Gorbachev Message

JN160855 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0826 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat received a written message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev last night. Authoritative Palestinian sources said that the message includes the USSR's strong condemnation of all terrorist acts which encroach on international law and which are practiced by the Israeli occupation authorities against the sons of the Palestinian people who are defending their legitimate rights.

The Soviet message also includes an assertion that the resistance by the Palestinian people highlights a pressing need for a peaceful settlement of the conflict in the Middle East. The message includes complete and unwavering support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. The message affirms the need for the swift convening of an international conference to be attended by the five Security Council permanent members and all concerned parties, including the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

These sources told the WAKH correspondent that Soviet leader Gorbachev had asserted in his message, which the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad handed to 'Arafat during a meeting, that the USSR will work earnestly, actively, and constructively to speed up the convening of an international peace conference to resolve Middle East problems.

'Arafat Comments on Message

JN160929 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0847 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Bahgdad, 16 Jan (WAKH)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the USSR will soon begin a new diplomatic move to achieve the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people. 'Arafat told a press conference in Baghdad last night that the message he had received from CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev is politically very important under the current circumstances. The Soviet leader affirmed in his message that the USSR will work earnestly, actively, and constructively to speed up the convening of an international conference on the Middle East.

'Arafat said that the peace sought by the Soviet leader is not confined to nuclear weapons despite their dangers. Peace is interdependence, including extinguishing hotbeds of tension, particularly in the Middle East.

Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] affirmed that his visit to the USSR is still on the agenda. However, the overwhelming popular uprising in the occupied territory and the need to follow up its events have prevented him from making this visit in the last few days.

'Arafat condemned the hysterical statements made by the commander of the Israeli paratroopers in Gaza in which he affirmed that he had received orders to break the bones of the Palestinians. 'Arafat said this terrorist must remember that the Sabra and Shatila massacres, the 88-day attack on Beirut, the war of attrition in southern Lebanon, the ongoing siege of the camps, and the 30-year British colonialism could not break the bones of the Palestinains. Abu 'Ammar affirmed that Israeli terrorism will make the Palestinians stronger and more solid. He added that the Israeli leadership must know that each act will prompt a reaction equivalent in force and contrary in direction. However, 'Arafat did not elaborate on the Palestinian reaction.

'Arafat Appeals to Arab, Islamic Leaders

JN162038 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1756 GMT 16 Jan 88

["Text" of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's message to the leaders of Arab and Islamic states on the 15 January Al-Aqsa Mosque incidents; date and place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Their intention is to extinguish God's light by blowing with their mouths, but God will complete the revelation of His light, even though the unbelievers may detest it. [Koranic verse]

Brother leaders of Arab and Islamic states, blessed greetings. On this blessed day, Friday, 15 January 1988, the day the Jerusalem Committee and the Islamic states had decided to consider a day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, the Zionist occupation's crimes reached their peak against our patient and steadfast people throughout occupied Palestine. The Zionist occupation mobilized the largest part of its forces and attacked worshippers in most of the mosques in our occupied territory while they were performing Friday prayers and prayers for our martyrs. The enemy used the most hideous forms of bloody violence. It opened machinegun fire and hurled gas bombs.

The enemy has also attacked and caused harm to worshippers. The Israeli occupation army doubled its hideous crime against our holy places when it stormed the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock Mosque and showered the groups of worshippers with machinegun fire, tear gas, smoke bombs, and internationally-banned nerve gas. The enemy forces also desecrated these holy places, clashed with the worshippers, prevented them from completing their prayers on this blessed day, and killed or wounded several of them.

All our mosques in the West Bank and Gaza Strip today have turned into arenas for real clashes between those performing prayers and the Zionist troops. The enemy troops carried out the most hideous forms of racism and rancor against the worshippers. At the same time, our people—men, women, and children—are continuing their faithful and strong resistance to defend their existence, land, and beliefs. These Zionist crimes against our holy Islamic places are similar to those perpetrated against our holy Christian places in Jerusalem and Bethlehem during the recent Christmas holidays.

I appeal to you on behalf of the struggler Palestinian people—who are defending their and your holy places with their blood, foremost among which are holy Jerusalem and the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, the point of departure for Prophet Muhammad's midnight journey to the seven heavens and the cradle of Christ—to support these steadfast people and to protect the holy places being desecrated by the rancorous Zionists.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If ye will aid the cause of God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse]. It is a revolution until victory!

Signed, Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces

Al-Quds Radio Interviews Palestinian Deportees

JN151327 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1209 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Interview with deportees Jibril Mahmud al-Rujub, Bashir Ahmad Khayri, Husam Khadr, and Jamal Jabarah by unidentified station correspondent at the "Palestine tent" in Lebanon at midnight on 14 January—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating land and men. Al-Quds is with the four strugglers deported from Palestine as a result of a Zionist decision. They have been sent out of their native land, away from their homes, families, and children. Al-Quds will interview the four strugglers in a tent at the headquarters of the International Red Cross in Lebanon. They are determined to return and continue their struggle for this return.

Palestinian struggler Jibril al-Rujub, how were you exiled from your homeland and deported?

[Al-Rujub] I was arrested on 28 December. I was transferred to 'Atlit under inhuman conditions. We were beaten up all along the road and were the target of psychological humiliation. We stayed there 6 days under difficult and inhumane conditions. On 3 January 1988 four other strugglers and I were transferred to [name indistinct] detention camp. An officer claiming to represent the commander of the central region in occupied Palestine informed us of the exile order. The decision to exile us from our homeland was made on the pretext that we pose a threat to the Zionist entity. Of course, they suggested we resort to the staged act of turning to the judicial authorities.

We did not turn to the judicial authorities for the following reasons: First, the judicial authorities in Israel do not act in accordance with Article 4 of the Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians under occupation. Second, the decision to deport us was political. Consequently, the judicial authorities which serve the military and political establishment in the Zionist entity were not able to rescind the decision under any circumstances. Third, they refused to inform us of the secret clause or the clause on which they relied in making their decision and claimed it was secret. Fourth, a resolution was adopted by the Security Council and we view it as the most powerful weapon to pressure the Zionist entity.

Of course, from our patriotic point of view, we cannot under any circumstances legalize any illegal decision issued by an illegal establishment.

After we expressed our stand in the presence of a consultative committee formed by the adviser to the commander of the central region. We were expecting to be deported at any moment. That happened yesterday. The place we were staying was stormed in a provocative and inhumane manner by the prison's administration. They took us to a waiting room. Of course, I and my colleagues who were deported with me will not forget the way we were deported. Our brothers and colleagues in Section Four at Junayd Prison bid us farewell with the song: "Yes, we will not die but we will uproot death from our land."

Perhaps that was the most difficult moment in my life, despite the fact I have experienced harsh circumstances in my life. Some of my colleagues have been martyred, some have been wounded, and I myself have faced death several times. However, I never reacted to an event so deeply as I did when we were deported from our homeland.

Of course, there they put us in a waiting room for several hours. At approximately 1230 an estimated 50-60-man force of the Zionist military arrived; they blindfolded us and tied us hand and foot. We were transferred to what we think was a military base—possibly an Air Force base. From there we were taken by helicopter in an approximately 1-hour flight. The helicopter landed on a highway; we did not know where. Our blindfolds were removed and we were untied. Each one of us was carried by two soldiers and left on a street where we found cars and two roadblocks manned by soldiers and officers of the occupation army. Of course, we saw their badges.

We also saw civilian cars with Lebanese license plates; we realized we were on Lebanese territory but did not know our exact whereabouts. Each pair of us was put in a car. They took pictures of us as we were being moved from the helicopter to the cars. Of course, we were transported by car to a destination unknown to us. We tried to find out from the drivers, but they did not tell us. After a further 5-7 km they said they were going to take us to a safe zone.

They claimed to be patriotic people and were afraid of the place where we were heading. They got us to a place called Marj al-Zuhur, where we disembarked. We then stopped a car and talked with its driver, who told us there was a Lebanese Army post 200 meters away. This confirmed to us that the people who drove us were Syrian intelligence. We reached the Lebanese post where, of course, there were Syrian intelligence men. We waited there. We were later informed of a Syrian-Lebanese decision, based on an Arab position that none of those expelled from Palestine be accepted. They asked us to return to the zone from where we came.

Of course we went back on the second day after a Lebanese Army regiment hosted us. We returned to the same zone from where we left. They informed us that Israel had closed the crossing points with Lahd. Of course, we realized we were in the western Al-Biqa' of Lebanon. We stayed several hours until approximately 1200. People from the nationalist Palestinian and Lebanese forces got in touch with us. Comrades of the PFLP transported us from the Marj al-Zuhur zone to the International Committee of the Red Cross premises in Zahlah.

We are now in a tent on top of which we have hoisted the Palestinian flag and, God willing, we will fly the UN banner tomorrow. We trust and are confident that we will return to our homeland, even if we return as corpses to be buried in Palestine. Of course, on my brothers' behalf I send our salutations to our brothers and comrades who stayed behind in prison. We also salute the rest of our people. At the same time we emphasize that we are in safe hands among our brothers and kinfolk. Of course, my colleagues would like to send salutations to our people. We thank everybody. We also thank Section Four—more particularly (Jamal al-Shakir), Abu 'Aziz, Bashir, and the other young men in prison. They will carry on the struggle for liberation until we set up our Palestinian state [words indistinct].

[Correspondent] Bashir al-Khayri, the Palestinian struggler who has been deported from his homeland: What can you say to our Palestinian Arab people on behalf of your four [as heard] deported brothers?

[Al-Khayri] In the name of my brothers, who have been deported from my homeland, Palestine, I send to you, our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied homeland, greetings of steadfastness for your splendid uprising that you have framed with the blood of Palestine's children, flowers, and old men. This uprising has expressed the cohesion of our Palestinian masses in our camps, villages, institutions, cities, and in every spot and area in occupied Palestine. From here, from our new exile, we tell you that we will struggle to return to Palestine even if the price is our martyrdom.

We call on our masses to do what the martyr 'Izz al-Din al-Qassam said: Die as martyrs. You are now writing the epic of martyrdom. You are receiving martyrdom satisfied because you reject occupation. You are now—each day, each hour, and each moment—achieving a new victory over the Zionist enemy. Your blessed uprising is the hope and the first step toward liberating Palestine, all of Palestine. In the name of all comrade deportees, we tell you that we will keep the pledge and we will return. We thank Al-Quds Radio. [Correspondent] Palestinian struggler Husam Khadr: The children of stones in Palestine shook the conscience of the world and proved to the Zionists that Palestine will only be the homeland of the Palestinians. How do you interpret the phenomenon of the children of stones?

[Khadr] The Zionist enemy has wagered on the death of the Palestine question upon the demise of the generation that existed at the time of occupation. However, the phenomenon of the children of stones was like a time bomb for this enemy. Those children were born and brought up under the Zionist occupation. They were born at a time when the Zionist enemy's feet were treading on the green land. They grew up at a time when the Zionist enemy was killing fathers and mothers without heeding norm, law, religion, or custom. These children amazed the world by their determination to consider Palestine their homeland to which they will certainly return.

The children of stones in occupied Palestine carried their sacred stones which, thanks to their strong faith and heroism, turned into bullets directed at the chests of this arrogant enemy. They have thus acted brilliantly side by side with their brothers, the sons of the Palestinian people in Lebanon, and the sons of the Lebanese national movement, the RPG children. They have shaken the world conscience which we the Palestinian people have accused of collusion and defeatism. This conscience must wake up to the cracks of bullets and the sounds of the children's chants for Palestine and the long life of its heroic Palestinian people.

This phenomenon requires study, as well as moral and material support through all factors of liberation and heroic fedayeen action possessed by our great revolution. We can say that the phenomenon of the children of stones is a real message to all our fighters in Lebanon, the free Arab country, to stand in one trench, renounce differences and fratricide, and work for the liberation of Lebanon and Palestine. The phenomenon of the children of stones is a message to everyone who bears arms in the face of his Palestinian brother so that he will think a thousand times before he does so and then direct his grudge and fire toward the Zionist enemy. Thanks to Al-Quds Radio.

[Correspondent] Brother struggler Jamal Jabarah, would you tell how our Palestinian people in their great uprising feel about the sympathy and support of the Arab nation's masses for them?

[Jabarah] Indeed, the Palestinian people derive their steadfastness and will from the steadfastness and will of the Arab people and the Arab nation. Our kinfolk in the occupied territory had a somewhat unclear image of the Arab nation's support for them. When we arrived here in Lebanon and saw how the Lebanese masses and ordinary people, that is those who are not (?organized), deal with and view the Palestinian people, we were greatly moved and impressed, especially when we saw that some people were nearing tears when we mentioned the uprising.

Today I was speaking to a group of people about the uprising. In my speech, I said that I had tried to take a handful of earth while I was leaving Palestine so as to keep it. This handful of earth will not kill me. On the contrary, it will revive me. Wherever I go I will sit on it and feel I am in my homeland. I noticed that most of those listening were about to cry. I believe that such sentiments stem from hearts which feel with their brothers in the occupied homeland. We were given a splendid welcome here. Vivid sentiments were there.

However, at the same time we urge the Lebanese masses to stand alongside the Palestinian revolution to achieve the objectives of the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples and the objectives of the Arab nation in general. We also call on the Arab nation's children to learn lessons from the stone-throwing children in the occupied homeland. One thousand greetings to my brothers in the Zionist detention camps who are suffering the most severe and ugly forms of torture invented and modernized by the Zionist leaders. We won't forget you. We won't forget Abu Hazza', Abu 'Ali, Lu'ay, 'Azmi, or anyone. I am speaking on behalf of my colleagues Jibril al-Rujub, Bashir al-Khayri, and Husam. We now salute our brothers and comrades. We urge you to continue the march until the last drop of blood is spilled or until our sacred objective is reached. Thanks to Al-Quds Radio.

Chad

French Defense Minister Giraud Visits 17 Jan

LD171527 Paris Domestic Service in French
1245 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] French Defense Minister Andre Giraud is on a tour of Africa that will take him in particular to Cameroon and Gabon. The first leg of his trip is Bangui, Central African Republic, where he is scheduled to meet with the French community today. Early this morning, Andre Giraud sneaked away from the journalists accompanying him and made a short visit to Ndjamena, Chad. Our special envoy, Daniel Desesquel, reports by telephone from Bangui:

[Desesquel] Andre Giraud paid a short discreet visit to Chad; no journalist accompanied him. In Ndjamena, the defense minister made an on-the-spot inspection of the Epervier force. He talked to the pilots who form the backbone of this essentially air force. He also paid tribute to the legionnaire who was killed on Thursday in Faya-Largeau during a mine-clearing operation. He had a long talk with President Hissein Habre this morning. It was an uneasy discussion. If we may say so, Andre Giraud has never been enthusiastically in favor of the Chadian forces' seizure of the palm grove Faya-Largeau. Even if the seizure and the fete of Aozou are only past episodes of the Chadian-Libyan conflict, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi is once again massing troops at the border of the two countries. The visit of the defense minister is thus not devoid of significance. He is reminding the Libyan leaders at the right moment that France will not let them do what they want in Chad, in case they still have any doubts about it.

Habre Receives Giraud

AB172011 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] French Defense Minister Andre Giraud, who arrived in Ndjamena yesterday, was received this morning by the president of the Republic, El Hadj Hissein Habre. After the meeting, Andre Giraud discussed his meeting with the head of state with our reporters Adami Taya of Radio Chad and Solistens Konan of [word indistinct].

[Begin recording] [Giraud] My visit is merely a friendly one. We meet periodically, whenever we have the opportunity. This visit is a good opportunity for me to meet with President Hissein Habre to discuss problems concerning Chad which are of interest to us. As you can well imagine, our meeting focused entirely on the general security situation in Chad.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, is there a new element in French-Chadian cooperation that motivated this impromptu visit?

[Giraud] No, there is no new element. Strictly speaking, this is not an impromptu visit. Chad was the only African country I visited last year because of my tight schedule. This year I am visiting other countries but since I was nearby I felt it was once more a good opportunity to meet with President Hissein Habre and obtain his views about the current situation. [Words indistinct] the analysis of the Chadian head of a situation in which we are very interested because we sincerely hope that Chad will in the future be able to live in peace on its national territory.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, could we expect a significiant (?modification) of the "Sparrowhawk" operation in Chad since the Chadian territory is violated daily by the Libyan Air Force? Do you think that the planes [words indistinct] can ensure parallel cover for the extreme north of Chad and prevent Libyan incursions into our territory?

[Giraud] The extreme north of Chad is too far away from our bases for us to prevent violations, but we noted in the past that there were boundaries that should not be crossed. [end recording]

Discusses Unscheduled Visit

LD172036 Paris International Service in French
1800 GMT 17 JAN 88

[Text] French Defense Minister Andre Giraud was received this morning by the president of Chad. This visit to Ndjamena was not a scheduled part of the defense minister's current tour of the Central African Republic, Cameroon, and Gabon. The Epervier force is at the center of his talks with Hissein Habre. France is thinking of introducing a slight readjustment to the force. Readjustment, however, does not mean reduction but rather moving some men for logistical reasons, as confirmed by the defense minister to Daniel Desesquel, our special envoy in Bangui.

[Begin Recording] [Giraud] Since we have been helping Chad, it has occurred to us to increase this force, diminish it, increase it again, and diminish it again. It is not a problem. We try at any time to be useful to Chad's problems at any given moment. The problem encountered by Chad at this moment is the supply of the population and the Chadians who are in the north of the country.

[Desesquel] Are very few of them still [there in the north]?

[Giraud] There are still quite a few, and there are the armed forces which have to be fed. Then there are all those who returned to live in the palm groves and oases. The logistical needs have therefore been easily modified and we had to adapt ourselves [word indistinct] from this point of view.

[Desesquel] Logistical needs, as we did in the north [words indistinct].

[Giraud] Yes, of course. There is no fighting at the moment and anyway, as you know, we don't take part in the fighting. I don't have to tell you that the limit under the sovereignty of the legitimate government is not the 16th parallel anymore [words indistinct] Aozou Strip. Chadian territory has thus doubled in size and the communication network has therefore doubled, a problem which we will have to face. [end recording]

Andre Giraud has just arrived in Yaounde, Cameroon. He will be in Gabon on Tuesday morning for a 36-hour visit.

Libyan Planes Fly Over Bardai 18 Jan

AB181902 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1847 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] At a time when experts of the OAU ad hoc committee are examining the Chad-Libyan conflict in search of a peaceful solution, Libya continues to create confusion. Although Libya is present at this meeting of experts [words indistinct] the bloodthirsty regime of Tripoli is against a negotiated solution. In fact, in spite of the cease-fire declared by the OAU, Libya continues to violate Chadian airspace. The Libyan Air Force flew over Bardai this morning at 0700 local time [0600 GMT].

Libyan Intentions Seen As 'Clearly' Hostile

AB151545 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Experts of the OAU ad hoc committee charged with settling the Chad-Libya border conflict started their deliberations yesterday in Libreville, Gabon. The Chadian delegation led by Mr [name indistinct], the director general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been in the Gabonese capital since the past weekend. The parties to the conflict are participating in these deliberations as observers. The deliberations, which bring together experts, jurists, and cartographers from the members states of the ad hoc committee, must examine the documents submitted a few weeks ago by the two sides and must draw up a report which will be submitted to the heads of state conference of the committee.

Although Libya is pretending to take an active part in this meeting, nothing indicates with certainty that it has finally opted for a negotiated solution. Moreover, pieces of information gathered over the past few days from our fellow countrymen who have returned from Libya clearly speak of the unyielding desire of the Libyan regime to continue with the hostilities. In addition to actual military maneuvers, the Libyan aggression is aimed at causing other harm, especially physical and moral harm, to Chadians living in Libya or who are under Libyan occupation with a final goal of annihilating Chad. With this in mind, Libya will never abandon its bad intentions against our country. [passage omitted]

One can therefore say that Libya has never stopped disrupting all our efforts at peace. The proof is that since the start of the cease-fire on 11 September, there has been no day when Libya did not carry out a military action against Chad by flying over Chadian airspace. The Libyan Air Force just this morning, on two occasions, flew over Chadian airspace above Bardai. This took place at 0730 and 1030 today.

Ndjamena Denounces Sudanese-Libyan 'Alliance'

AB172240 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Undoubtedly, there is no clarity and coherence in the policy of the Sudanese prime minister, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Confusion [words indistinct] and lies seem to be the cardinal principles of his policy. The attitude of the Sudanese Government in the Chad-Libya conflict is a striking example of this. After serving as a mediator, the Sudanese regime has changed into a docile and manipulated ally of Libya due to the power of its oil dinars. It has even gone to the extent of acknowledging Libya's ownership of Aozou and of making its Darfur region available for Lbyan military operations against Chad.

As if this were not enough, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has further increased his attachment to the vile Al-Qadhdhafi by adopting a confused, alarmist, and menacing attitude towards Chad and the conflict in general. According to the Sudanese newspaper (?AL-SAHAFA), top Sudanese officials last Sunday [10 January] reportedly expressed their concern about what they referred to as repeated attacks by Chadian troops on the Sudanese border. These officials also, according to this paper, asserted that they had lodged a protest to the Eastern Chad Military High Command against these acts which they described as irresponsible. They added that they would meet these Chadian attacks with all due force and firmness. Dr (Abdel Mahdi Addi Hamed), governor of the Darfur region, said that these attacks were the result of the war between Chadian factions. He concluded by alleging that clashes had taken place between the Armed Forces and Chadian troops (?in his region).

Finally, according to these military sources cited by (?AL-SAHAFA), a certain commander of the Libyan troops was arrested after a fierce battle with the Sudanese police and Army. A vehicle containing the sum of $20,000 and an additional 2 million in various currencies, as well as cards, and very important documents were seized from the so-called commander. We are faced with an imbroglio whose true objective is to mask the [word indistinct] presence of members of the Islamic Legion in the western part of Sudan (?and deceive) the people of the Darfur region, the first innocent victims of this presence, and to spread the libelous theories of the Libyan master. The reality on the spot is totally different and has to be recalled.

In reply to the lies of the Libyan regime and in exchange for military and economic aid [words indistinct] the faithful follower, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has approved the stationing in the Darfur region of more than 1,000 members of the Islamic Legion, who are from several African and Arab countries, and who have made incursions into Chadian territory on several occasions. Their attacks have always been repelled by the FANT, followed by a light warning by the Chadian Government to the Sudanese Government on the possibility of applying the right of pursuit. Sudanese and international opinion are aware that the members of FANT have never fought any Chadian troops because they do not exist. The FANT is fighting Al-Qadhdhafi's Islamic Legion, spearhead of Libyan military expeditions abroad as in the case in Uganda. The Sudanese authorities will be responsible for the consequences of these expeditions. In any case, the Sudanese worries and threats (?cannot prevent) the interpretation that an alliance exists between Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Tripoli regime.

Egypt

Mubarak Makes Aqaba Stopover, Returns to Cairo

*NC161547 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1535 GMT
16 Jan 88*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation returned to Cairo from Aqaba this evening. He had made a brief stopover in Jordan which lasted several hours.

Mubarak Terms Tour 'Successful, Very Useful'

*NC161747 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT
16 Jan 88*

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has described as excellent the results of his tour of seven Gulf states. At the conclusion of his tour, the president made a stopover in Jordan.

In statements made to the newspaper officials who accompanied him on his Gulf tour, President Mubarak referred to the splendid and overflowing fraternal sentiments for Egypt. He told the chairmen of the board of directors and chief editors that the discussions he had held with the kings and leaders of the countries he visited were successful and very useful.

President Mubarak added that all the kings and presidents with whom he had met during his tour were as happy with the continuation of Egyptian-Arab contacts as he was personally. President Mubarak described his meetings in Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, and Iraq as very good. He stated that the stands of these countries' leaders were more than excellent. The president added that all parties have agreed that the Arab need for Egypt is equal to Egypt's need for the Arabs. He noted that they have empahsized that cohesion and solidarity increases the strength of the Arabs.

Concerning the military situation on the Iraqi front, President Mubarak has affirmed that the situation there is satisfactory and cohesive and that morale is high.

President Mubarak praised the special and distinctive relationship between Egypt and Oman, noting that the two countries are linked by relations that have never been severed.

President Mubarak said his visit to Jordan was part of the continuing consultations between himself and his brother His Majesty King Husayn. President Mubarak said King Husayn had briefed him on his recent visit to the USSR. The president said his upcoming visit to the United States and a number of European countries were also discussed during his meeting with the Jordanian monarch. President Mubarak noted that his discussions with King Husayn also revolved around ways of giving more impetus to the Palestinian issue.

Turning to domestic affairs, President Mubarak said all of the efforts made during the past 6 years and on which the new 5-year plan focuses are designed to serve the interest of the Egyptian citizen, to lighten his burden, and to seek better living conditions. The president stressed the importance of production in Egypt and ways to increase it, particularly during the current phase.

He said increasing salaries without increasing production will automatically bring higher prices which, he said, would be a negative result. He noted that a study pertaining to salary increases has been prepared. The president said that the funds required for this purpose with regard to government employees only, without counting public sector employees, total 1.1 billion pounds. The president stressed the importance of increasing production to provide a balance between wages and prices.

Al-Baz Notes Success of Mubarak's Gulf Trip

*PM191055 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic
14 Jan 88 p 1*

['Abdallah Hasan report: "Usamah al-Baz Tells 'UMAN: Mubarak's Visit to GCC States Was Successful at All Levels"]

[Text] Dr Usamah al-Baz, Egyptian Foreign Ministry first secretary and presidential office director for political affairs, has praised the results of President Mubarak's visit to the GCC states. He said President Mubarak is perfectly satisfied and happy with the results of his talks with his brother leaders of the GCC states and that the visit was successful at all levels.

In a statement to 'UMAN Dr al-Baz said: No side made demands on the other. The fraternal Gulf states did not ask for Egyptian forces nor did Egypt ask for economic or other aid. There were talks on the ways and means that we could use to achieve greater Arab solidarity in all political, diplomatic, economic, and cultural fields.

He added: President Mubarak was eager to make this tour to build more bridges of consultation and contacts with the Gulf states, personally express the Egyptian people's sentiments for these fraternal states, and hold talks with his brothers in the Gulf states before embarking on his visit to four European states and the United States, where he could convey Arab unanimity to the extent that such unanimity exists.

He further said: President Mubarak will express not only Egypt's will but also a pan-Arab will and the Arab nation's demands in general.

Dr al-Baz pointed out that President Mubarak's discussions during the tour mainly covered the Iraq-Iran war and the efforts being made to end it—noting that UN Resolution No 598 proposes a formula for ending the war but that Iran has so far not accepted it—as well as the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territory, which has shaken the world's conscience.

Paper on Mubarak's Gulf Tour, Arab Cohesion

JN172006 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
15 Jan 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Facts Are Stronger Than Smoke Screens"]

[Text] By way of creating smoke screens on the eve of President Mubarak's historic Gulf tour, some quarters claimed there was an Egyptian-Gulf deal under which Egypt was to receive $5 billion for ensuring full protection for the Gulf states against threatened Iranian aggression. For all these falsehoods, which President Mubarak dismissed as fabrications and said Egyptian soldiers are not mercenaries, it is just as well for us to reiterate that Egypt will never abandon its pan-Arab commitment to Gulf security, which has a direct bearing on Egypt's national security.

It is no exaggeration to say that one of the most important aims of President Mubarak's tour was to underscore Egypt's commitment to its brothers and hold consultations on future moves to face grave dangers, which the Arab nation can no longer afford to approach so casually. Happily enough, there is now complete understanding on the part of a majority of the Arab countries and, more specifically, the GCC states of Egypt's potential contribution to the Arab nation, having regained its deserved weight in joint Arab action and a concomitant cultural and practical clout. Egypt has full confidence in the Arab nation's capacity to build a major force, since all the required economic resources and military efficiency are present there.

A reformulation of common Arab action against dangers and challenges was surely a principal aim of the tour. It is a goal of crucial importance as we cast about for a formula for common action to handle vexing conflicts affecting the global balance of forces. Accordingly, we have to work out a division of labor, taking into account our respective resources and performances.

The dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation are too big for one Arab country to take on singlehandedly; only a united, intensive Arab effort will suffice as a deterrent. Then the Arab nation should be in a position to tackle not just Iranian threats and blackmail, but other such challenges wherever they originate, hence joining the club of major powers.

Perhaps we all agree that Iran's arrogance and inflexibility would not have reached such a pitch if it were not for the absence of an effective Arab deterrent force. The first step on the road to checking the Iranian threat is to build enough Arab solidarity to make Iran reexamine its strategy, which is no less ominous to the Iranians themselves than to the Arabs; throughout history the Iranian nation's prosperity and advancement have coincided with the intervals of harmony and goodneighborliness with the Arab nation.

Egypt is hopeful and optimistic that the positive outcome of President Mubarak's tour will mark a starting point for reformulating the concept of Arab solidarity on firm foundations commensurate with the gravity of the challenges facing the Arab nation regarding the Gulf war and the Palestinian cause, in which the recent uprising has given a tremendous moral boost that the Arabs ought to make the most of. World and even Israeli public opinion is now convinced that with the uprising the Palestinian cause has survived all attempts at writing it off.

Mubarak Calls Morocco's Hassan About Illness

NC162021 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2005 GMT
16 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak telephoned King Hassan II of Morocco this evening to inquire about his health.

Tunisia's Baccouche Stops Over in Cairo

NC181557 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche arrived in Cairo this afternoon on his way to the Gulf, where he will visit a number of states in the region. He was received at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Baccouche said he stopped in Cairo at the start of his Gulf tour to convey to President Mubarak the Tunisian people's love for Egypt and its people as an indication of

Tunisia's appreciation of his excellency the president. He said his visit also provides him with an opportunity to meet with Dr Sidqi. Baccouche said that challenges which confront Egypt or Tunisia are challenges confronting both countries together.

The Tunisian prime minister expressed his pride in Egypt's role regarding restoration of the Palestinian people's rights. He said Egypt has made great sacrifices for the sake of the Palestinian people. He also praised President Mubarak's stand on the Palestinian issue.

Baccouche concluded his statement by saying that the results of the Amman summit will enable Egypt to play its Arab and African roles in every way.

Dr Sidqi welcomed the Tunisian prime minister in the name of the Egyptian Government and people. He expressed hope this visit would mark the beginning of the strengthening of relations between Egypt and Tunisia.

Dr Sidqi expressed the wish of the Egyptian president, government, and people for the success of Prime Minister Baccouche's mission in the Gulf. He emphasized Egypt has every respect for Tunisia. The Tunisian prime minister has meanwhile declared he will visit Cairo soon.

Tunisia's Sahbani Arrives for Visit 16 Jan

NC162144 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 16 Jan (MENA)—Taieb Sahbani, secretary of state attached to the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, has arrived in Cairo from Rome for a visit of several days. He was met at the airport by Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and the head and staff of the Tunisian Interests Section in Cairo.

Holds Talks With Al-Majid

NC171406 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Taieb Sahbani, secretary of state attached to the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, has asserted that relations between Tunisia and Egypt were never severed. There have always been exchanges which are still continuing, he said. He expressed the hope the next few weeks would see the further development of bilateral relations.

After a meeting today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Sahbani said that his current visit to Cairo is taking place on the instructions of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Sahbani added that his talks with Dr 'Abd al-Majid were friendly and frank. They dealt with issues of concern to both countries and matters connected with their joint interests. He described President Mubarak's Gulf tour as positive and said Arab solidarity should take on a positive and effective new aspect based on logic.

Sahbani arrived in Cairo yesterday, Saturday, for a 2-day visit to Egypt. This morning he met with Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs. The two officials discussed bilateral relations.

Received by Mubarak

NC181403 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Taieb Sahbani, minister of state attached to the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis today. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs; and Dr (Nur al-Din al-Hamdani), head of the Tunisian Interests Section in Cairo, attended the meeting.

After the meeting, Taieb Sahbani stated that he had delivered to President Mubarak a message of amity and fraternity from his brother, Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. He added that his discussion with President Mubarak touched on all issues of interest to the two fraternal countries, both with regard to bilateral ties and matters of concern to the Arab region, as well as to international issues.

He said his visit to Egypt is the first such visit by a Tunisian Government official to an Arab country after the recent change in Tunisia. He declared: We intend to forge more intimate ties with Egypt in all political, economic, social, and cultural spheres.

Departs After Talks 19 Jan

NC191139 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—Taieb Sahbani, secretary of state attached to the Tunisian Foreign Ministry, left Cairo this morning after a 3-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. He also held talks on matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry's first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

The Tunisian minister was seen off at the airport by Ahmad Hatatah, assistant foreign minister, and Isma'il Mubarak, director of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department.

Radi Leaves for Sudanese Water Resources Talks

NC170818 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0710 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Eng 'Isam Radi, works and water resources minister, left Cairo for Khartoum this morning on an official 6-day visit to Sudan at the invitation of his Sudanese counterpart.

The minister said he will attend the meetings of the Nile Basin countries' ministers of water resources and irrigation to be held in Khartoum and in which Egypt, Sudan, Zaire, and Uganda are taking part. He added the conferees will discuss relations among Nile Basin countries and the feasibility of drawing up a system for developing the water resources available to them. The ministers will also examine the possibility of cooperating with Uganda in setting up a project on Lake Mobutu.

Information Minister Returns From Ethiopia

NC151908 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif arrived in Cairo from Addis Ababa today after heading Egypt's delegation to the African information ministers meetings, held from 13 to 15 January, and after having delivered a message to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam from President Mubarak.

Chief of Staff Ready for Joint Arab Maneuvers

NC181607 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Fayid, 18 Jan (MENA)—Lieutenant General Safiy al-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, has said Egypt is ready to hold joint military maneuvers with any of the Arab states that have recently restored diplomatic relations with Egypt. After attending the graduation of a new group of officers from the Reserve Officers College today, Lt Gen Abu Shinaf made a statement in which he pointed out the Egyptian forces recently concluded joint military exercises with Jordan.

In a speech during the graduation ceremony, the chief of staff emphasized the Armed Forces' interest in reserve officers. He pointed out reserve officers had proved themselves to be highly efficient in the glorious October war operations.

Syria's Gulf Mediation 'Dangerous Game'

JN180743 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 16 Jan 88 p 5

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] Syria is playing a dangerous game. On the surface it appears to serve the interests of the Gulf states, but what lies beneath the surface, although unknown, presents signs that can be seen. Syria is attempting to mediate between Iran and the Gulf states. An attempt to achieve peace is acceptable. However, the Syrian position is close to being one of extortion—or at least an attempt to abort Egypt's contacts with the Gulf states.

No one rejects peace. However, Syria brings unacceptable conditions. It presents its threats to the Gulf states in soft silk gloves. The timing of its mediation is calculated. One cannot say such a mediation is suspect and yet the developments make one doubtful.

The first message on the mediation arrived in Riyadh on the day the GCC summit began. The summit began in the morning and in the evening the Syrian foreign minister arrived on a visit which the Saudi press described as sudden and significant. Did Syria want to cancel the decisions that could be made by the summit? It is a possibility. However, the statement issued by the GCC indicates the GCC summit rejected such an attempt.

The second message was brought by Khaddam and Al-Shar' a few hours prior to President Mubarak's arrival. Was the purpose to abort the results of President Mubarak's visit before it took place? Syria's role is well known; it has carried it out in the past and it insisted on it at the Islamic summit and again at the Amman summit. It rejects Egypt's return and insists on keeping Egypt far from the Arab nation—even though that has been rejected by the Arabs. Therefore Syria is trying to spoil the newly-born ties, but the signs do not indicate it has succeeded.

However, have the Gulf states acquiesced to the Syrian mediation? The Gulf states have understood the game. Syria wants to delay the implementation of the Security Council resolution under the pretext of peace. Yet who rejects peace?

It appears the Gulf states are acting along two parallel lines. They are acting to implement Security Council Resolution No 598. The Soviet Union is obstructing this resolution. It is also seeking to gain something from its implementation, even if such a gain is to establish relations with Saudi Arabia and a line of dialogue with Iran that the Gulf states are pursuing without mediation. They are pursuing such a line directly, without Syria's trusteeship or supervision.

UAE President Shaykh Zayid's envoy has gone to Tehran and Iranian envoys have arrived in the Gulf states from Tehran. The dialogue continues directly and without anyone's intervention.

The Saudi paper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT expresses this clearly. It says: What mediation, in light of such stands?—and the paper was referring to Iran's unacceptable conditions. The paper says Syria is trying to look for a role to justify its departure from the Arab consensus, particularly as the Gulf states are turning—emotionally, mentally, and in practice—toward a Cairo which expresses the same sentiments.

PLO Denies Gaza Demonstrators Fired Upon

NC171220 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1158 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, official in charge of the PLO office and Fatah representative in Cairo, has categorically denied that Egyptian security forces deployed on the Egyptian-Israeli border in Rafah opened fire last week on Palestinian demonstrators in the Canada camp, which lies on the Egyptian side of the border with the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian official said the Israeli reports are untrue and are aimed at creating a rift in the firm Egyptian-Palestinian relations, which are developing daily because they are strategic and fateful. He praised the stand of the Egyptian president, goverment, and people on the Palestinian issue in general and on the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories in particular.

8 Reportedly Arrested for Planning Attacks
NC190701 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD reported yesterday that Egyptian authorities recently arrested eight people, some of whom belong to the Palestinian Liberation Front led by Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas]. They were arrested on charges of planning to blow up an Israeli hotel in Tabah, as well as for attempting to hijack an Israeli tourist bus to bargain for the release of detainees in Israeli prisons.

Goulding Assassination Attempt 'Old Hobby'
NC172246 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—The Egyptian AL-AKHBAR newspaper says the attempt to kill Marrack Goulding, the UN secretary general's envoy, during his visit to the Palestinian camps in the occupied Arab territories reminds us of the tragic assassination of Swedish Count Bernadotte. He was the first UN envoy to Palestine when he was assassinated in the heart of Jerusalem while on a UN mission in the late forties.

In an article which it will publish on Monday under the headline "The Hobby of Assassinating UN Envoys," the paper points out that killing international envoys is an old hobby of the Israeli leaders since they headed the Zionist terrorist gangs in Palestine before the inception of their state.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say: Despite the fact the whole world was convinced that the nobleman [Bernadotte] was the victim of Zionist terrorist gangs who acted on the order of their leaders who now rule Israel, no one raised his voice to protest or to denounce what had happened.

The paper emphasizes that this defeatist attitude which the world adopted at that time has encouraged Tel Aviv's rulers over the past 40 years to continue their policy of despising and disregarding all resolutions issued by the UN General Assembly and Security Council. It says: Not even the UN Emergency Forces have escaped the consequences of this Israeli attitude. Many members of these forces have fallen victim to the hobby of assassinating anyone affiliated with the United Nations.

Israeli Territorial Water Violations Protested
PM191203 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jan 88 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Egypt Protests: Israeli Yachts Violate Our Territorial Waters"]

[Text] Cairo—Informed sources at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt has submitted a number of protests to the Israeli authorities because of the presence of some Israeli yachts and launches without special permits in Egyptian territorial waters in the region of Sharm al-Shaykh.

These sources mentioned that in the last 6 months of last year Egyptian police intercepted 22 Israeli yachts and launches without permits and took the appropriate measures to safeguard the water area of the Sharm al-Shaykh region.

The sources said Egypt has informed the UN multinational force command in Sinai of these violations by Israel and has asked that surveillance of the Egyptian beaches in Sharm al-Shaykh to record Israeli violations be included in the duties of the force.

Further on Visit by CSSR's Roman Narozny

Holds Talks at Foreign Ministry
NC171347 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 17 Jan (MENA)—Ambassadors Wafa' Hijazi and Ahmad Hatatah, assistants to the foreign minister, held talks at the Foreign Ministry today with Roman Narozny, CSSR deputy foreign minister, who is visiting Cairo.

Roman affirmed his country's support for the concept of an international conference on Middle East peace, noting that all parties concerned, including the PLO, must attend such a meeting. He also asserted that Czechoslovakia condemns the Israeli repression and deportation measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

The talks also dealt with ways of promoting bilateral relations. The two countries are scheduled to sign a cultural and educational cooperation agreement tomorrow.

Confers With Ghali
NC181615 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, met with visiting CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Narozny today. They discussed the latest developments in the deteriorating situation in the occupied Gaza sector and West Bank, as well as ways of consolidating political and cultural relations between the two countries.

The CSSR deputy foreign minister said his country supports the convening of an international conference for peace on condition that all the parties concerned, including the PLO, participate. He also emphasized his country's condemnation of the suppressive and deportation measures Israel is adopting against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories.

Notes Strong Mutual Ties

NC190835 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 18 Jan (MENA)—CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Narozny has lauded relations between his country and Egypt, describing them as strong. He added these ties are demonstrated by his country's past concern for the Egyptian people's struggle for independence and present cooperation in various domains.

In a statement that will appear in AL-AHRAM tomorrow, the CSSR official said that communication between Egypt and his country have been ongoing at the political level for a long time. He added that Jan Marko, first deputy chairman of the CSSR Federal Assembly, visited Egypt last year and that discussions are under way regarding a visit to Egypt by the CSSR foreign minister this year.

The CSSR official noted that he will sign a bilateral cultural protocol defining cooperation in culture, science, and sports for the next 3 years.

Regarding the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the CSSR deputy foreign minister said the only solution to the problem lies in convening an international Middle East conference under UN auspices to achieve a just settlement of the Palestinian issue.

Narozny said: The recent summit meeting between Reagan and Gorbachev is an example and proof that the most difficult problems can be resolved through negotiations. However, we have observed an Israeli tendency to resort to violence in resolving the Palestinian problem.

He noted that the CSSR Foreign Ministry has issued two statements: The first on 26 December supporting the convocation of an international conference with all parties concerned taking part, including the PLO, and the second on 6 January condemning the Israeli occupation forces' aggression and the expulsion of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. Narozny added that by committing such acts Israel has violated the agreement it signed in 1948 regulating treatment of civilians by all countries during armed conflicts.

Commenting on the treaty signed in Washington by Reagan and Gorbachev, the CSSR deputy foreign minister said his country supports it, because under this agreement all short- and intermediate-range missiles in the CSSR will be eliminated. The CSSR, he added, will back any future treaties in this regard. He expressed his belief that future meetings will focus on curbing chemical weapons with a view toward reaching a comprehensive peace, a difficult and distant goal. Narozny said the treaty will open new horizons for curbing the arms race of the past. It is also, he added, a sign of goodwill for continuing disarmament.

The CSSR official said his country is holding contacts with several countries seeking development and progress to promote cooperation with these countries in the areas of political, economic, and social development. Evidence of this, he said, is his visit to Tunisia, where a major educational development project is being implemented. He noted there is cooperation between his country and Tunisia in this respect, without either country imposing conditions on the other.

Departs 19 Jan

NC190902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0755 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 19 Jan (MENA)—CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Narozny and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this morning at the conclusion of a 4-day visit to Egypt. During his stay in Cairo, Narozny signed the executive program for cultural and educational cooperation between the two countries for the period from 1988 to 1990. He also held talks with various officials on consolidating and developing bilateral cooperation in several other areas.

He was seen off by Deputy Foreign Minister Ambassador Muhammad Wafa' Hijazi.

Libya

JANA Editor on Alleged Nuclear Export

LD181725 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] JANA's political editor has commented on the informational brouhaha being raised in the Western world regarding the so-called infiltration of nuclear waste and nuclear products from West Germany. He said: The Western mass media are still nourishing the allegation that a West German firm exported nuclear products to certain Islamic countries, despite a denial by the firm concerned, despite the assurance of the International Atomic Energy Agency that such a thing could not possibly happen, and despite categorical denial by the West German minister of the environment.

The campaign originally started from unfounded allegations which were probably intended to cover schemes set for other reasons. Any observer following this issue can make the following remarks:

It is the Zionist intelligence circles who are behind this campaign in an effort to conceal the nuclear armament of the Zionists, backed by the Western states, and for other purposes, such as imposing an informational blackout on the uprising of the Arabs in occupied Palestine, and to justify any new Zionist aggression against the Arab countries.

It is due to the submission of the centers of political and information decision in the Western countries to direct Zionist domination. This is the only explanation for the spontaneous response to the Zionists' orders and to the authority which the Zionists enjoy, which goes as far as encroaching on the sovereignty of those countries and the independence of their decisions.

It is also due to the West's disregard of its interests with the Arabs, its looking down upon them, and its disregard of an Arab response.

The political editor asserted: While we condemn the campaigns of distortion and deliberate public exposure, we deny all these lies, and restate that it is the Zionist enemy who is breaching, unpunished, all the international laws, resolutions, and treaties related to the nonproliferation of nuclear arms.

The editor wondered at the end of his commentary: Did it not occur to the racist circles who are spreading these lies to consider a simple hypothesis: Either remove the nuclear arms from the Zionists and punish those who enabled them to have them, or it is inevitable that the Arabs will have their own deterrant nuclear weapons for self-defense.

Libya Protests U.S. Flight Over Passenger Ship

LD161449 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] The brother secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Foreign Liaison Bureau has sent a message to the UN secretary general on the low-level flight of a U.S. fighter plane over the Libyan passenger ship "Gharnatah" which was on a regular journey from Izmir, Turkey, to the port of Benghazi on 7 January 1988. The message explained that this action is a new U.S. provocation against the Jamahiriyah and a flagrant threat to the safety of sea lanes in the Mediterranean. It is also a flagrant violation of international law. It confirms the correctness of the Jamahariyah's previous warnings on the danger of the military presence in the Mediterranean, and its call for the removal of fleets and foreign bases from it.

JANA: Al-Qadhdhafi BBC Interviews 'Distorted'

LD161938 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0950 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, 16 Jan (JANA)—The British authorities have intervened to stop the broadcast of the contents of two interviews with the leader of the revolution by BBC radio, one of them over the telephone on 28 December 1987, and the other by David Lee on 10 January 1988.

The interviews with the leader were distorted in a way which confirms that what is said about the freedom of British radio is a false claim and a deception.

JANA's international affairs editor stresses that this behavior reveals a racist tendency and confirms that the British Government authorities can interfere and control the British media. The proof of that is the inability of BBC radio to broadcast the contents of its two interviews with the leader of the revolution. Therefore, this makes us withdraw our confidence in this radio because it is untrustworthy and not free; it is a controlled organ which broadcasts only the things which agree with the views of Thatcher and her government.

Here are the contents of the leader's two interviews with the BBC:

On 10 January 1988, BBC radio conducted an interview with the brother leader of the revolution. Here is its text:

Lee: Colonel, do you consider that the current disturbances in the occupied territories will be of permanent importance? Do you consider that the Arab-Israeli conflict has now entered a new stage?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] There is no doubt that the Palestinian people have been feeling the burden of the occupation of their country since 1948; the world has done nothing about it and the Arab rulers have let the Palestinian people down. Therefore, the people began the revolution from within occupied Palestine. Faced with these divisions in the Palestinian resistance and the failure of its unity, the failure of Arab unity, the burden of occupation, and the continuous support of the Western countries for this occupation, all these factors have led to the explosion of the anger of revolution in the Arab territories of occupied Palestine.

The brother leader was asked the following question about his views of the Arab-Israeli conflict: Has it been transformed into a Palestinian-Israeli conflict because the Palestinians feel that they have been ignored by the Arab governments, resulting in their starting to deal with the issue by themselves, in order to be able to determine their own destiny? The brother leader responded: In fact, the conflict between the Palestinian people and Zionism commenced in 1948 and even before that, and the Arab nation supports the Palestinian people's struggle for the liberation of their land. But the Arab governments have been feeble, and the weakness of rulers such as Hassan, Husayn, the Phalangists, and others, has led this people to rely on themselves and to begin the revolution with stones.

With regard to his stance toward the various Palestinian organizations, the brother leader stated: We are with all the Palestinians, and with anyone who struggles for the liberation of Palestine.

Regarding his views on Palestinian unity and whether the resignation of Yasir 'Arafat is necessary, the brother leader said: The condition that is needed is agreement that armed struggle is the way to the liberation of Palestine, and the existence of democracy within the PLO. These are the conditions which make unity possible among the Palestinian fronts.

Asked who can reunite the PLO and all Palestinian factions under one banner, the brother leader replied: It could be someone unknown, and the Palestinian people themselves can unite the factions.

The British journalist asked the brother leader about the demonstrations which have been taking place for a 2d month now in the occupied territories, and how he sees the development of events there. The brother leader said: The question is not one of assessing how these things are developing. I call on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories to create these developments, as these are the developments we want for the benefit of liberation. There are three main mottos which must be adopted from now on. These are: popular rejection of the Israeli occupation of Palestine from 1948 to 1967, civil disobedience, and secret sabotage. I call on the Palestinian people to avoid even throwing stones and using any means of overt violence so that this will not cause new damage and other victims. The Palestinian people must now adopt these three mottos: popular rejection, civil disobedience, and secret sabotage. We have to seize the opportunity of every Friday inside the mosques to affirm these mottos and to set forth on this action from mosques. We must take the opportunity of every Sunday, as far as the Palestinian Christians are concerned, for saying these words in churches and set forth from the churches.

The Israeli settlements which have been set up in the Gaza Strip and in the West Bank must be specifically besieged, as there are 23 settlements in Gaza and 192 settlements in the West Bank. The whole world is against these Israeli settlements, which must be continuously besieged. Supplies to these settlements must be cut as much as possible and if there are any demonstrations, then these must be directed toward these settlements, for the whole world is against these settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians must not provide the enemy with the opportunity to affirm something called Israel. The latter occupied Arab territory in 1967; consequently, this uprising must encompass the Arab territories which were occupied in 1948, the mosques of Yafo, Hebron, Akko, and the occupied regions since 1948, which are concerned with the call during the Friday prayers. The masses of praying people must be called on to carry out popular rejection and embark on secret sabotage so that the world knows that there is a people whose land is occupied and which has a cause, so that the reverse exodus from Palestine can start, and so that the contradictions inside Israel itself, inside the Zionist block, will explode, for many of them do not want to live in this inferno.

The BCC radio Arabic section held a telephone interview with the brother leader of the revolution on 28 December 1987, the text of which follows:

Radio announcer: May you be in good health, Hassan Mu'awwad, from the BBC here. First of all, thank you, sir, for giving us the opportunity to have this interview with you. I would like you to allow us to start this interview by asking your opinion about the wave of protests which has been witnessed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip during the past 2 weeks, and the ensuing strict measures and arrests which have been carried out by the Israelis, as well as yesterday's news reports about the Israelis preventing UNRWA staff from working freely, particularly in the Jabalyah camp in the occupied Gaza Strip.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Thank you, Brother Hassan. I have confirmed news from occupied Palestine which I would like the world to hear as it might not have heard this from another source. The world will then witness the atrocity of the Zionist occupation of our land of Palestine from 1948 to the present day. The statements of Israeli officials confirm this atrocity.

I have a statement from Sha'ul Levi, director of the prisons department, which says that those who have been released were freed as a result of crowded prisons. All the Israeli prisons are overcrowded and even those for whom there is no room in prison have been temporarily released so that the world does not know that there are releases. [sentence as received] In fact, this is not a release. The prison official himself says that this is a result of overcrowded prisons. He says that the prisons department will receive a new prison which will accommodate 400 people.

Shim'on Malka, the spokesman for the prisons department, has said that a military base is to be transformed into a prison which can accommodate 800 people. The Israeli Army set up a temporary prison in the south of the West Bank this week. I have information on the military prison of Al-Fari'ah, which is situated east of Nabulus, where there are 20 child prisoners. I have the name of an 85-year-old man, Khalil Husni al-Muhayri, who died on 18 December following suffocation with gas in the mosque of al-Birah camp. I also have the name of a child, Wahid Ibrahim Abu Salim, who was 11-years old, from Khan Yunis, who was martyred on 10 December by the bullets of the forces of occupation.

I also have the name of an 11-year-old child, 'Ali Isma'il al-Musa'id from the Balatah camp in Nabulus, who was martyred with bullets on 11 December, and a girl who was only 1-year old, named Huriyah Muhammad Sharab, who was in a coma in Khan Yunis on 14 December. I do not know if she has died or not.

What is happening in occupied Palestine is the revolution of the heroic Palestinian people and the everlasting and continuous revolution against occupation which took place in 1948, not as some people depict and who detract from the value of this historical revolution saying that it is in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

I have contacts with all the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. The revolution encompasses all the Palestinian people, and I am now working to invite all the Arabs to provide real support for our people so that they can continue this revolution. I have sent messages to the UN secretary general, to the Security Council, and to the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, urging them to mobilize world public opinion and their capabilities behind this people which is defending freedom inside its homeland. I contacted some of the leaders inside occupied Palestine recently and they confirmed to me their steadfastness, their continuation of the revolution, and their high morale. On this occasion, I urge our heroic Palestinian people to continue this revolution and I have asked the leaders I have contacted, and I now ask the masses of this Palestinian people: "It is not necessary to use violence, because the will of the Palestinian people is stronger than the weapon of the enemy." The Iranian people brought down the shah, his dictatorship, his army, his tyranny, which was backed by America, not with weapons, but with the strong will of the masses. The will of the Palestinian people is stronger than arms and there is no need to use any other means of violence in order to give the enemy a pretext to open fire and commit massacres everywhere and terrorize our people. I call for civil disobedience and for the destruction of the interests of Britain—which handed Palestine over to the Israelis—in occupied Palestine, and the interests of America which supports this tyrannical enemy. I call on this Palestinian people to continue this revolution to make the world understand that there is a people which defends its land which has been under occupation since 1948, because the traitorous Arab leaders now want to make the world understand the facts of the matter wrongly and to falsify this cause, projecting the problem as one of a dispute over borders between the so-called Israel and its Arab neighbors, and that this can be settled at an international conference. But this conference cannot extract Palestine as a whole and give it to the Palestinians. This powerful uprising came as a reply to the traitorous Amman summit which was a clear relinquishing of the right of the Palestinian people in dear Palestine. I shall back this revolution with all capabilities and work for the mobilization of effective Arab and international forces behind the Palestinian people, to make the world understand that the Arab leaders are traitorous and have misled them and that the cause is one of a people and its land which has been under occupation since 1948.

Radio announcer: Brother Colonel, following the events in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, we have recently begun to hear reports saying that the PLO is considering the establishment of a Palestinian government-in-exile as a response to these events in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip. Should such a government be formed? What would your reaction be?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This matter is nothing but diplomatic idle talk and I as a revolutionary have nothing to do with this. I know that the Stable David accord was implemented by one side only. It was implemented literally by the Egyptian side. As for the Israeli side, it did not implement anything. The accord provides for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the territories they occupied in 1967. [as received] It also provides for the creation of a provisional Palestine government and the abolition of the Israeli settlements and colonies in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in addition to refraining from building new settlements. Yet since then, 192 new settlements have been built in the West Bank and 23 settlements in the Gaza Strip. Consequently, Egypt can legally extricate itself from the Stable David accords, because the other party has totally violated them.

Radio announcer: Brother Colonel, permit me now to move to the question of the Gulf war. In light of the current visit of the Iranian foreign minister to the Jamahiriyah and also in light of the intensification of the tanker war this month in the Gulf and reports about Iran's preparation for a large-scale offensive on Iraq, which, as observers say, threatens to spread this war into other Arab countries in the Gulf, should such a thing take place, what would the Libyan Jamahiriyah's position be?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We were against this war from the start. I have exerted efforts and continue to do so in order to put an end to this war. I consider it a purposeless war; it has no purpose. It is a mad war verging sometimes on cowardice and on a lack of ethics. Even the schools of small children have become targets for both sides and the war has become degrading and has harmed Islam and Arab and Islamic ethics.

I condemn both sides and I know that Zionism and imperialism will be the beneficiaries of the destruction of the Iranian revolution and the destruction of the Iraqi revolution.

As for the other Arab countries, it was they who embroiled themselves in this war and they were the ones that brought the United States into the Gulf. I know that the Arabs do not benefit from the Gulf oil, but the United States does. For this reason, when the war drew close to the Gulf oil and to U.S. interests, the United States intervened to safeguard its interest. This points to the fact that the so-called Gulf countries are U.S. colonies. The Arab nation does not benefit from this wealth. The Libyan people bear witness to this. These countries failed to join the Libyan people in the Great Man-Made River project, which has cost billions and which is 7,000 kilometers long. It is the eighth wonder of the world. These Arab countries did not join the Libyan people in fortifying the coast which extends over 2,000 kilometers and which faces the threat of U.S. invasion. They did not join them in anything. The other Arab countries and peoples have not benefited from the oil either. But if Iran were to become a colony or to become Persian again, or if the war were to become a sectarian war, then I would be against Iran and fight it because then it would no longer be a revolution. However, I hope Iran will remain revolutionary against Zionism and reaction. This matter should be clear.

Radio announcer: Brother Colonel, if an international ban is imposed on exporting weapons to Iran, would you adhere to such a ban?

Al-Qadhdhafi: In fact, Libya is not a source of weapons. Libya imports weapons. I wish that there were a ban on producing and importing weapons, not only on Iran, but on everybody, including the Zionist camp which occupies Palestine, and that the United States, the imperialist countries and the superpowers, would stop the infernal war machine which works for annihilating the human race. From the beginning, I am against armament. I have a Green philosophy which calls for democratic peaceful change, for the establishment of jamahiri regimes in the world, and for the disappearance of all governments, armies, police, and all forces of oppression. They should all disappear and be replaced by people's congresses and people's committees. The world should read the Green Book because it has not read the Green Book. Even in West Germany, they banned the Green Book because they did not understand it. When they read it, the court said that it calls for a new world and it should be considered as a bible for this era.

Radio announcer: Brother Colonel, in your foreign relations, there are reports that the Libyan Jamahiriyah is currently pursuing a rapprochement at the level of the Arab Maghreb, and the Arab world in general. What are the steps you have taken in this respect?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Our mission is clear. It is the establishment of Arab unity from the ocean to the Gulf. With the explosion of the revolution in Libya, the winds of unity blew over the Arab Maghreb region, which was isolated, and the Arab-African Union was established with Morocco. However, because of the non-union character of the king, and because of U.S. and Israeli pressures which were exerted on him, he was not free to continue this union, and therefore, the union was unilaterally abolished in an illegal way—the people were asked about it in a referendum and ratified it, but it was abolished by the king, without referring to the people. Now there is a constitution based on a union between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria, but we now call on Tunisia and Mauritania, and even Morocco, to join this union. If we realize that they are not able to respond to the unity demands of the Arab masses, then this union will immediately be established between the Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

Radio announcer: Colonel, within the context of your foreign relations it is also said that you are pursuing an improvement in your relations with the United States and with the West in general, including Britain. How true are these reports?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We do not need to establish relations with Britain, nor even with the United States. We are not like Japan or Germany who need something from the United States. If we boycott them even until doomsday, we will not be harmed. We can survive away from the United States, Britain, and all these countries in which there is a crusading spirit hostile to Arab Semitism and Islam, and which send their hatred in the form of military campaigns and sieges. America's language, especially during Reagan's era, and Britain's language, during Margaret's era, are barbarous languages detested by the whole world. They are now a language of siege, boycott, invasion, military campaigns, maneuvers, and defending terrorism against our countries. The European countries and America have wronged themselves by becoming dens of terrorism against progressive and revolutionary Arab countries.

Therefore, violence has started to move to Europe, Britain, and America, because these countries do not respect themselves and poke their noses into our problems, interfere in our internal affairs, want to change our regimes at their will, and defend the terrorism directed against us. Therefore, they have to pay the price. We do not think of resuming relations with Britain during the era of this Margaret and during the era of Reagan, who cannot be anything but an Israeli rabid dog, who does not even represent the interests of the American people. When this Margaret and Reagan change, relations might be resumed in a natural way with these two countries, in spite of the fact that we do not need them.

Radio announcer: Finally, Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, could you give us an evaluation of the situation on the Libyan-Chadian borders, and what would the Jamahiriyah's position be if, as you say, Hissein Habre's forces were to carry out their threatened all-out offensive against the Aozou strip?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We are at present within our international borders. We did not enter Aozou in 1974 as is said now, particularly by the BBC, which is nothing but a slander. In the days of the Ottomans, Libya was at the 10th parallel beyond Aozou. These were the Libyan borders under the Ottomans. They were beyond Ndjamena. We were in Aozou even before the revolution. The maps and charts which show that Aozou was within Libya's borders were forwarded to the OAU. Now we have closed our borders with Chad and confined ourselves to within our international borders and left the Chadian problem to the Chadians. Any aggression against a country that has closed its borders and confined itself to within its international border will be seen by the world as unjustified and, consequently, Libya will have the right to destroy its source.

We have no desire for any war in Chad. There was no such war, in fact, as is being said, that this war has been going on for long years between Libya and Chad. Never was there any war between Libya and Chad at all. It is known that Frolinat, the Chadian National Liberation Front, has been fighting for the domination of Chad and was dependent on Libya. The so-called Hissein Habre chose to join the side opposed to Frolinat and succeeded in controlling Ndjamena. Frolinat, meanwhile, continued under the leadership of Goukouni Oueddei, the spiritual leader of the revolution, which continued to rely on Libya and on its historic struggle for the liberation of Chad. Thus this long war, which has entered its 20th or more year, is a war between Frolinat and the forces opposed to the Chadian people.

As for Libya, it never entered into any war with Chad. However, when the French and U.S. forces, Chadian in name only—the insignia was Chadian but the arms and troops were French and American—entered Libyan territory at Aozou for the first time, clashes occured between us and these so-called Chadian forces joined by this U.S.-led alliance, which failed to bring us to our knees or to succeed in their attack on us from the north. Now they have turned to attack us from the south, together with France. In 1986 they attacked us together with Britain and the NATO forces from the north. Now they, together with France and NATO, want to attack us from the south. For the first time, an armed clash took place between us at Aozou when we drove them out in a battle which lasted less than 2 hours. But it is the United States, France, and Zaire—all these countries are the ones fighting us. As for the Libyan and Chadian peoples, they are brothers and Muslims and harbor no grudge against each other. Libya will do all it can to reconcile Goukouni and Habre so that stability may prevail in this country which adjoins us.

Regarding the so-called Islamic corps, we in fact have no military formation with such a name. We only hear about it from foreign radios.

Regarding the fighting now taking place in Chad and the talk that Libya is a party to it or has anything to do with it, I must say that the Quz Zubaydah area is about 4,000 kilometers away from Libya. It is in the vicinity of the borders of the Central African Republic, Sudan, and Chad. The battles are raging where the Ndjamena forces are being fought by the first army under the command of Muhammad Aba Sa'id, one of the early commanders of Frolinat, alongside the forces of Al-Burkan and the Hadjarai tribes under the command of Haroun, who was a member of Habre's cabinet and later rebelled against it in order to avenge Idriss Miskin, who was poisoned by Habre. These tribes, which have declared a rebellion, are situated in the area south of Ndjamena which extends to southeast Chad. The fighting is raging there most ferociously. It is in fact inside Chad. Chad consists of tribes and varied religions. It does not constitute a harmonious entity. Yet one man now wants to rule it. He comes from one of the tribes, which is the (Inkazah) tribe to which Habre belongs. The other tribes refuse to accept this. Consequently, the conflict in Chad will remain Chadian and the Jamahiriyah has nothing to do with it.

Radio announcer: Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, at the end of this interview we cannot but thank you immensely.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Thank you Brother Hassan. May God bless you.

Within this context, the British authorities have intervened and prevented the publication of the following article in THE TIMES, a matter which confirms the lie about freedom of the press in Britain and exposes the government's domination of the means of publication. Here is the text:

In the beginning there was the word, so says the Bible, but in the end there was the bomb. Thus we are in contradiction with the teachings of Christ, whose 1,988th birthday was just celebrated by the world. Christ says: I do not say do not kill; rather do not get angry, and the one who is angered by others deserves the fire of hell. Thus we regrettably announce the end of Christianity and that Christ has been crucified. He was crucified by the Israelis in Palestine, although the Koran says one similar to Christ had been crucified by the Israelis and they thought that they had killed Christ himself.

Thus Christ did not crucify himself [as received] in order to pardon the sins of his followers. This is a myth and a lie by the reactionary men of religion who emerged in the dark ages in order to dominate the multitude of common people. God alone forgives whom he wishes. Thus the Israelis crucified Christ in the year 32 AD in Palestine, the land of the Palestinians, and the cross remained for us in order to adorn our necks with it and as an admission and a testimony that the Israelis crucified Christ. And the word of Christ, which was in the beginning, ended, and it was replaced by the atomic, neutron, and laser bombs which are carried by the U.S. F-111 bombers from the Lakenheath, Fairford, Upper Heyford, and Mildenhall British bases, to kill Al-Qadhdhafi and his family while they are asleep, and to injure a 15-month-old baby on the orders of the Catholic U.S. Government and the Protestant British Government, while Christ said: Do not kill; rather do not get angry, and the one who is angered by others, deserves the fire of hell.

Thus what is the secret of the alliance between Christian Europe and Christian America with the Israelis, the enemies of Christ who crucified him and killed him, "but he appeared to them." [as received] How can those, who wear the cross around their necks as an admission that Christ was crucified, be allied with those who crucified him? Some say that Hitler took his revenge on the Jews in order to avenge Christ, and some say that the Christian Palestinians were the founders of the PLO because the Israelis killed Christ, and because the Jews took revenge on the Christian Palestinians and carried out the famous Dayr Yasin massacre in 1948, because they were the sons of Christ, their sworn enemy. They say that in the Sabra and Shatila massacres on 17 September 1982 the Israelis killed the largest number of Palestinian Christian children in a repetition of the same tragedy: the Israeli's killing of Christ, peace be upon him. Yet the secret of the alliance of Europe and America with the enemies of God and the killers of his sons has not yet been explained.

There is yet another historic secret like this. What is the secret behind the alliance of the governments of Europe and the United States against the destitute, decimated Palestinian refugee people and against Libya, the statelet whose population numbers no more than 3.5 million, and against the Arabs and Muslims in general. Did the Arabs kill Christ? Not at all. He was killed by the Israelites. Is Islam an enemy of Christ? Not at all. Listen to what the holy Koran has to say about Christ. God Almighty said: "Christ the Messiah the son of Mary was (no more than) an apostle of God and His word which he bestowed on Mary and the spirit issuing from him." The holy Koran, in which the Muslims believe, also says about Mary: "And (remember) she who guarded her chastity: We breathed into her of our spirit, and we made her and her son a sign for all peoples."

Is there one single Israeli who is a Christian? Never. Is there a Christian who is an Israeli? Never. But there is an Arab Christian, there is a European Muslim and there is an American Muslim. There are strong ties between the Christians and the Muslims and between the Arabs and the Europeans. But the alliance existing now is against these spiritual relations. Now the followers of the Messiah are allies of the murderers of the Messiah. His followers and those who believe in Him are now being antagonized by the followers of Christ. What is the secret behind this?

How can a country like Libya rid itself of the complex of European oppression against it and against its nation? Rome colonized us for over 500 years, wrongly and aggressively. We were colonized by the Vandals who came from Europe for 34 years, and by the Byzantians for 200 years, and by the Spaniards for 40 years, then by Rome again for 34 years, until World War II. Britain handed Palestine over to the Israelis instead of to its original people, the Palestinians. France, wrongly and through aggression, occupied Algeria and Tunisia for over 100 years and killed 1.5 million Algerians. Britain occupied Palestine, Egypt, Sudan, and the Arabian Peninsula and killed thousands of families in southern Yemen until it was liberated in 1967. Finally came the NATO raids, which took off from the bases of Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Upper Heyford, and Fairford, and the raids which took off from the Italian and Spanish ports, on civilian quarters in peaceful Banghazi. Then followed the attempts by the European and U.S. governments to poison me and assassinate me. For the details of all these I refer you to the book "The CIA Secret Wars" by Bob Woodward and the Al-Qadhdhafi book "CIA," and the "Death Merchants," by Francois Soudan and Joseph Golding, and "Spycatcher" by Peter Wright.

Why have you been colonizing my country for more than 800 years? The danger in this is the renewed desire and the threats of invasion which the United States makes every year; the April 1986 raids on Libyan cities are not far in the past. If someone answers that the Arabs also colonized Spain for 800 years, I say I condemn colonialism and do not recognize the spreading of Islam outside the Arab borders, and I do not believe in spreading it by force. Why does Europe forget its indebtedness to the Arabs? Read the orientalist Sigrid Honke: "The Muslim Arabs were the ones who took Europe out of the darkness and into the light," not the Israelis. We taught Europe medicine, mathematics, astronomy, navigation, literature, and had it not been for us, Europe and America would have been more backward. Go back to medical, astronomical and mathematical terms? Most of them are distorted Arabic words. Shakespeare, the father of William Shakespeare, is a "pure Arab". He is Shaykh Zubayr, and the distortion is clear in his name but very subtle. The European unit for measuring force is al-Faras, the Arab mare. Algebra is derived from the name of Jabir Ibn Hayyan. Logarithms are attributed to Al-Khawarizmi, and 'Abbas Ibn Firnas was the first man to invent the plane in Europe, and he is the founder of aviation theory. The first clock to enter Europe was presented to Charlemagne by Al-Rashid. The figures which you use are Arabic. This is the good that the Muslim Arabs brought to Europe, and the antiquities of Spain testify to the venerable Arab state established by the Arabs there.

But what did Europe and America leave in our country? They left the legacy of the gallows everywhere, and mass cemetries. Four thousand Libyans were transferred to Italy, to the island of Tremiti, on 26 October 1911 and their fate remains unkown even now. We demand to know. Then Europe left wide and destructive minefields which still explode under our feet. I personally know one person who was injured by one of these mines which had been planted by the Italians, the Germans, and the English in our country during World War II, although we were not a side in this war.

Who is the unjust, who is the oppressor, and what is the secret? I believe that the secret is that the one responsible is not European or American but the governments of Europe and America. In Britain, Thatcher is the one who hates our children and who allowed their killing; and in America, Reagan is the one who is dominated by Zionism and who was used against our children, because the objective of Zionism is the killing of children. Why? In order to halt the Arab demographic growth, to be replaced by Israeli demographic growth, and because when the Yanks occupied America they first annihilated its Red Indian population with smallpox germs. See the film. Consequently, they believe in the annihilation of a race to acquire land. America today, as an imperialist force, wants to dominate the world, has rushed madly to make weapons of total destruction such as the atomtic, nuclear, and laser bombs, and has finally bred the AIDS virus and is now breeding the dangerous Asian cockroach and deadly rats in order to spread them in the world. America's strategy after World War II and its abandonment of Truman's doctrine was aimed at transforming Europe and Britain into a bridgehead for the United States and was determined to involve and link Europe to it in a military alliance, not to defend Europe, but to transform the latter into a shield protecting America.

The conclusion, therefore, is that people do not hate each other, only governments do. People do not leave their homes in order to take over other people's homes but armies do so at rulers' orders. The British people did not allow the F-111 bombers to attack our children from Lakenheath, Upper Heyford, Fairford, and Mildenhall bases nor did the American people. On the contrary, the British and the American masses were angry and went out demonstrating, as in Europe, against such a barbarous attack. This danger, however, exists as long as armies and governments exist.

What is the solution and what is required of us to do jointly in order to create a new world free from all these dangers? For this purpose I would like you to study the Green Book, the new bible, as well as its elucidations, which call for an international cultural revolution, the creation of the jamahiri era, and the ending of the era of despotic governments which control peoples with their loathsome instruments, like the president, the army, the police, and the parliament, as well as to get rid of Thatcher's and Reagan's language, which is composed of the following loathsome words: blockade, raids, assassination, and military exercises; and to set up jamahiriyahs where people's committees and congresses are everywhere. This would end oppression, exploitation, and colonialism. Hurry up and study the Green Book before governments hide it and Zionism burns it. Also, read the Koran so as to know who Jesus is, whose mother is Mary, the daughter of Imran, and whose brother is Harun. Let the green thought and the green color—the color of spring, paradise, and grass—be everywhere, so that fire and smoke might go away, grenades and aircraft might be muted in order to leave the place for the Jamahiriyah's eternal symphony. European governments should immediately refrain from protecting the anti-third universal theory of terrorism. They should not involve themselves in the problems of the Middle East and adopt Arab terrorists who are running away from the revolution and justice and are sought by Interpol. Let the Jewish emmigration to Palestine be stopped and let there be a Jewish return to whereever they come from. Let oppression against the Jewish people be lifted everywhere and let Palestine be left for the Palestinians. Spain should leave Cueta and Melilla; the Canary Isles should be given their independence, Corsica should be given its independence as well as New Caledonia, Martinique, Reunion, Mayotte, [name indistinct] Sicily, and Sardinia. Let all this be achieved peacefully and democratically. Let us agree through dialogue as in the beginning there was the word.

Al-Qadhdhafi Postpones Tunisia Visit

LD151900 Paris International Service in French 1800 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who was expected tomorrow in Tunis, has decided to postpone his visit until a later date. Tunisia has not in fact officially announced the visit. [passage omitted]

Jamahiriyah Supporters in Gaza Demonstration

LD152234 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] A number of news agencies report that the newspapers of the Zionist enemy have stated that a number of elements loyal to the Great Jamahiriyah had taken part in the huge demonstrations in Gaza within the framework of the huge popular uprising sweeping through occupied Palestine against the Zionist occupation. The newspaper pointed out that these demonstrators carried effigies of the brother leader of the revolution.

The Arab affairs editor, commenting on this, said: The Jamahiriyah is a unionist and revolutionary force which works toward combating the enemy, and liberating the Arab nation and achieving its comprehensive unity. The revolutionary and unionist cries, and the effigies of the leader of the revolution which were carried by these participants in the huge uprising against the Zionist occupation, are proof of the unionist revolutionary current, which is now reflected by the masses of occupied Palestine through its uprising, and stresses the need for a united Arab force against the enemy of the Arab nation.

The uprising currently sweeping through occupied Palestine stems from the hearts of the Arab Palestinian people and their suffering occupation for more than 40 years. It comes as an active and decisive answer by the masses of our Palestinian people to the resolutions of the Amman summit and all attempts to pass the submissive, defeatist schemes.

Al-Qadhdhafi Cables Groups on Israeli 'Crimes'

LD161732 Tripoli JANA in English 1451 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 16, JAMAHIRYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution has sent a message to the secretary general of the United Nations on events in the occupied territories. Following is the text:

Mr Secretary General,

The ugly crimes, arrests, expulsion and assassination taking place in the occupied lands against the sons of the Palestinian people including women, elderly people and defenceless children and gross violations of human rights have gone in their barbarity beyond the crimes committed by the Nazis and reached a degree which calls for a review of the culture of the post Second World War and its classification of crimes against humanity.

Mr Secretary General,

The world is called upon to take a decisive stance to put an end to the calamity of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab lands and this cannot be done except by taking deterrent measures to punish the Israeli criminals for the crimes they committed.

Also, the leader of the revolution has sent the following message to the president of Amnesty International organization, the chairman of the Committee of Human Rights, the president of the International Red Cross:

The Isreali occupiers arrested Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, the director of the Palestinian Red Crescent while fulfilling his humanitarian duties by distributing medicine and giving first aid to the injured who were shot by the bullets of Israeli occupiers whose crimes overtook the crimes committed by the Nazis and reached a degree which calls for a review of the post Second World War culture and its classifications of crimes against humanity.

Considering your humanitarian responsibilities, we urge to intervene to all international organizations and institutions for his release.

Furthermore, the leader of the revolution sent a similar messages to the president of the International Union of Lawyers, the president of the International Union of Journalists, the secretary general of Arab Lawyers Internal Union, the secretary general of Arab writers, the secretary general of Arab journalists urging them to intervene and exert their utmost with all international organizations, associations and unions so as to bring about a prompt release of Palestinian detainees arrested by the Isreali occupiers and they are as follows:

-Saleh al Roqaa, the editor of AL-SHA'B newspaper.

-Ibrahim Qrihan, the editor of AL-AWDA magazine.

-Fayez Abu Rahma, the president of the Lawyers Union in Gaza. [names as received]

Also the leader called upon these organizations to bear their responsibilities towards the persecution, assassination, expulsion and making the Palestinian in the occupied Arab lands whose savagery went beyond that of Nazism. [sentence as received]

Al-Qadhdhafi Exhorts Students To Return Home

LD172149 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Within the framework of mass mobilization and raising the morale of the masses of the Arab nation, to break the barrier of fear of the enemy in order to carry out the tasks of liberation and unity, and for the sake of carrying out a qualitative transformation in the pan-Arab revolutionary awareness in an aim to raise the degree of resistance, the brother leader of the revolution this morning met with secondary certificate students in educational institutes in Qarabulli, Tanjura, Qasr Bishr, and Hayrah.

[Begin Al-Qadhdhafi recording] Tomorrow you will graduate from the secondary schools and then you will go abroad on scholarships. You will then graduate abroad and stay in the same countries where you have studied. What are these countries? They could be Canada, the United States, or Europe, such as Britain. This is the camp which is hostile to your nation. Why do you leave your nation and stay in the opposing camp? It is because you are unaware, and if you are unaware you will join the enemy unknowingly. It means that you have joined the enemy. Any Arab now in this camp, even if he is a street sweeper, is hostile to his nation. Why do you leave your nation and this front and go to the enemy's front? We want to make you understand that the front does not mean the front where you will find a soldier in khaki carrying a Kalashnikov rifle or a machinegun or has an aircraft. The front is something other than that. The front begins with an official, or a sweeper, or a doctor, or an engineer, and then ends with the soldier. All that constitues a front. They are all soldiers.

What do they fight us with now? There is no continuous firing between us. They blockade us economically and scientifically—it is forbidden for Libyans to study astronomy or study space. Libyans are forbidden to study the atom. You go to Canada and say: I am a doctor, and I do not fight my nation because I am a doctor. If you are a doctor why do you treat the enemy? May God bless you! Another one of you may say: I am a sweeper in the United States, and therefore I am neither with you nor against you. How come you sweep the streets of the United States? Why do you not sweep the streets of your own country? If you sweep their streets then you are doing their jobs and allowing them—those who should sweep—to go and fight us. He who goes abroad to study and does not return to his nation, which is underdeveloped and needs him, has neither shame nor conscience, and his only concern in his stomach. In this he is like a dog—present company excepted! He is like any cattle—his only concern is his stomach!

I said to students before you: If I set you a puzzle which says, how can a man become a bull, the answer will be: if one graduates in his own country or abroad while his nation needs him and is underdeveloped and is awaiting his graduation, only to see him stay in another country;

and when he is asked why he replies: My country offers me little money while this country offers me much money. Life in my country is not so beneficial and life here in this foreign country is lovely. He is like a bull; if you put here a small quantity of grass he leaves it and goes where there is more grass. What is the difference between him and the bull in this case? The bull does not say: My dignity makes me accept little grass because this is my country; no, he will go to where there is more grass, wherever that may be—in Canada, or Britain. That is it—he has become a bull.

Where is the money? If there is little money here in Libya and there is more money in the United States he will go to where there is more money. Will he be allowed to marry into a family and will there be people marrying into his own family? Will there be some people who will say: He is my relative, or he is my in-law, or he is my cousin, or he is from my family or tribe? He is a bull! He is an animal! While the homeland needs him and is underdeveloped and helps him to graduate in order to return to help it progress and become prosperous and be able to defend itself, we see him joining the enemy which is fighting his homeland. When we ask him he says: I did not join the United States I make [word indistinct] and sell my product. All right, you stay in the United States to sell [words indistinct]. May God bless you! What service can you give the United States better than this service? They fight us and slaughter us and you make [word indistinct] and feed them. He answers: I do this in order to live.

See, he has been transformed into a bull, talking about living. Come back and live here or die here with us. You learn mathematics and applied sciences without political awareness. This does not please us. This is useless. You use this against your nation as those who preceded you did. Read, read and read—all right, we need this applied science, and this age is the age of science. But to read only without political awareness is useless; in that case you will all go to the enemy and leave your country behind you. This is because the country of the enemy is more lucrative than your own country at the present time. That is correct. It is not becuase your own country lacks lovely things. They—the enemies—left it in this state. [cheers from students] [end recording]

Sudan

Lebanese Radio Reports Foiled Coup Attempt

NC181554 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1525 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo Radio has carried a news report from Khartoum stating that Sudanese security forces today foiled a coup attempt in Sudan. The radio said a group which planned to destabilize the country had been arrested.

RFL Cites Sudanese Source

NC181714 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Sudanese Information Agency [as heard] has reported that Sudanese security forces foiled a coup attempt in the country. The agency added that a group that planned to destabilize the situation has been arrested. The agency did not, however, give any further details about the number of those arrested or their identity.

Iraqi Opposition Leader Assassinated 17 Jan

JN181236 Khartoum SUNA in English 1017 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan. 18 (SUNA)—A leader of the Iraqi Shi‘ite Islamic movement, Mahdi al-Hakim, was killed here yesterday at Hilton International Hotel, while his brother's son, who is accompanying him, was injured, the daily AL-USBU‘, published here today reported.

An eyewitness told the daily that an unknown person entered the entrance of the hotel and opened fire on the victim in head, killed him immediately and tried to kill his brother's son, ‘Abd al-Wahhab al-Hakim, who was injured.

The paper said that it tried to talk to the injured person but he refused and requested the presence of Dr. Hassan al-Turabi, leader of the [Sudanese] Islamic National Front.

The two persons, the victim and his brother's son came from London and before the incident they have visited Dr. al-Turabi in his house, the paper added.

The two persons were not invited to attend the second conference of the Islamic National Front held here current Jan. 14-16 and came on their own desire after it was ended the paper said.

Eyewitnesses said to the paper that the two persons [as received] opened fire on the victim and his brother's son, were fled in two cars one of them carrying a diplomatic plate.

All necessary measures were adopted for arresting the criminals and investigations were began immediately after the incident, police told paper.

On the other hand the daily ALWAN published here today said that Khartoum airport was closed yesterday before the departure planes following the incident.

Interior Ministry Condemns Act

EA181948 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Interior Ministry has issued the following statement:

A regrettable incident occurred at 2030 on Sunday, 17 January 1988, at the Hilton Hotel in Khartoum. The victim was Mahdi al-Hakim, who was carrying a passport of the United Arab Emirates, No 609259, dated 28 October 1984. He was born in 1936 at Al-Najaf, in Iraq. Another passport, a British one, No 28574, issued on 18 June 1986, was found among his luggage. According to the official document Mahdi al-Hakim showed upon entering Sudan, he was coming to attend the Islamic National Front Conference. An assailant fired bullets at the victim and killed him.

Another person was hurt in the leg by a bullet. His name is Halim 'Abd al-Wahhab, born in Baghdad in 1948. He was carrying a refugee travel document, No 51939, dated 23 January 1985, and issued by the UN office in London, showing that he is an Iraqi national. His condition is good. The man identified as Halim 'Abd al-Wahhab gave information on his belonging to the family of the deceased, Mahdi al-Hakim, that he was working as a secretary and manager for his business, and that the deceased left Iraq in 1959 for Dubai, then London. He continued to be an opponent of the government regime in Iraq from that time until his death.

As a result of the panic following the shooting, the assailant and another person were able to escape in a car waiting for them outside the hotel. Eye witnesses in the hotel described the assailant and the accomplice as having features, descriptions, and complexions indicating that they were not Sudanese, but foreigners.

The minister of interior, the director general of police, and senior police officers, immediately rushed to the scene of the incident. Legal measures were taken: The incident was reported at the Khartoum north [police] station. The prosecution and a team from the Central Investigations Department and the capital's internal and external security have started investigations. Interrogations and investigations are progressing intensively and with the utmost secrecy to uncover the facts.

The Ministry of Interior condemns such an act, which is alien to Sudan and its morals, and stresses it will do all it can to prevent such an incident recurring.

Attorney General on 'Clues'

JN191255 Khartoum SUNA in English 1040 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum Jan 19 (SUNA)—Attorney General 'Abd al-Mahmud al-Haj Salih said the security authorities had managed to find important clues which would definitely lead to the perpetrators of the assassination of the Iraqi opposition Jihad Muslim leader. Meanwhile security authorities said the intensive investigations revealed that the assailant, who has Arabic features, entered the Hilton Hotel firing shots on the hall's ceiling and killed the victim after ordering all the guests to floor down. After committing the assassination the killer fled by a diplomatic car waiting for him outside the hotel.

On the other hand Prime Minister Sadiq al-Mahdi announced in press statements yesterday that the government would take the necessary precautious measures to avoid the repetition of such violence and aggression.

Commenting on the assassination of the Iraqi Jihad Muslim leader Sadiq al-Mahdi said it was the first of its kind to occur in Sudan.

Education Minister Bakri Ahmad 'Adil said Sudan will not tolerate turning its territories into a field of battles between those who differ in ideology and thought.

Secretary General of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Badr al-Din Muddaththir condemned the crime and described it as horrible.

The political leadership here had denounced the assassination and pledged to spare no efforts for avoiding the occurance of such barbaric acts.

Al-Husayn, Police Investigate

NC172304 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2225 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (MENA)—Mahdi al-Hakim, a pro-Iranian Iraqi opposition leader, was killed in the Khartoum Hilton tonight when an unidentified person broke into the hotel and fired three shots at him. Halim 'Abd al-Wahhab, one of Al-Hakim's followers, was wounded in the incident.

Mahdi al-Hakim and Halim 'Abd al-Wahhab were sitting in the hotel lounge when two persons got out of a car that had stopped in front of the hotel. The two individuals fired two shots in the air, panicking the hotel's guests who took cover. The two persons then fired three shots at Al-Hakim. They also shot his companion in the leg when he cried 'uncle.'

Sudanese Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn and senior police officers immediately went to the scene to investigate. Al-Hakim's body was moved to the hospital. His companion, 'Abd al-Wahhab, is currently being treated for his wound.

A MENA correspondent reports that Al-Hakim had arrived in Khartoum from London 2 days ago to attend the second conference of the Sudanese Islamic Front, despite the fact that he had not been invited to attend. Al-Hakim did not participate in the Front's general congress, which was held in Khartoum's Al-Mawlid Square last night, because only those who had been invited were allowed to attend.

An Iraqi delegation led by an under secretary of the Iraqi Awqaf Ministry attended the conference in accordance with an official invitation.

Assassin Described as 'Iraqi'

NC180836 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Jan (MENA)—The Sudanese authorities tightened security following the assassination of Iraqi Shi'ite leader Mahdi al-Hakim in Khartoum last night. Khartoum Airport was closed immediately after the incident and airliners which had arrived earlier were forced to take off without any passengers aboard so as to block the perpetrators' chances of getting away.

Ahmad al-Husayn, Sudan's deputy prime minister and interior minister, said that Sudan refuses to be used by foreign political quarters as a ground to settle their accounts in any way, directly or indirectly.

It is worth noting that Mahdi al-Hakim was the number two man in the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Iraqi opposition. He used to reside in London.

MENA has learned that 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Hakim, Mahdi's nephew who was injured in the same attack and was treated for his wounds, gave testimony before Sudanese security authorities and described the perpetrator as Iraqi.

According to eyewitnesses at the Hilton Hotel, where the attack took place, the perpetrators were riding in two automobiles, one of them a Toyota with diplomatic license plates.

IRNA Reports Incident

LD181057 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—An informed source here Monday confirmed reports of the assassination in Khartoum of Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim at his hotel Sunday. He is [the] brother of [the] head of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) Hojjat ol-Eslam Muhammad Baqr al-Hakim.

The source, close to [the] SAIRI chapter in Tehran, said that unidentified gunmen shot dead Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim and immediately jumped into a waiting car bearing the licence plate of the Iraqi Embassy in Khartoum. The gunmen, he said, were secret agents of the Iraqi Government Dr. Halim 'Abd al-Wahhab an associate of Hakim was also hit and injured.

REUTERS quoted the Egyptian Middle East News Agency Sunday saying that the assailants broke into Seyyed Mahdi al-Hakim's hotel, fired in the air twice to disperse others from the scene and then fired three bullets to Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Hakim.

The agency's report added that interior minister and police officers of Sudan immediately arrived at the scene of the incident and carried the injured Dr. 'Abd al-Wahhab to hospital.

Official Denies Egyptian Forces Crossed Border

JN181132 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1026 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Jan (SUNA)—Muhammad 'Uthman Karrar, governor of the Eastern Region, has denied the presence of any Egyptian forces on the Egyptian-Sudanese Border or their entry into Sudan as it has been reported recently.

In a press statement yesterday, the governor affirmed there is an Egyptian controlling station inside the Sudanese border belonging to the Egyptian Air Defense in accordance with the bilateral agreement of 1977. The governor said he toured the border area 4 days ago.

Ahmad al-Sharif Dawud, the head of a popular delegation from the Wadi Halfa citizens, said here last Monday after the delegation's meeting with State Council Member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din that the Egyptian forces [passage indistinct]

Official Says Ethiopian Troops on Border

JN181201 Khartoum SUNA in English 1035 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 18 (SUNA)—Ethiopia has been stationed its troops along the side of the eastern Sudanese border and that a high ranking Ethiopian official visited the area and inspected the troops, Governor of the Eastern Region Muhammad 'Uthman Karrar announced here Sunday.

The governor ruled out any presence of anti-Ethiopian troops in the region and said the Ethiopian claims in this matter is just to have a reason for supporting the rebels of [Garang's] movement.

The governor confirmed the closure of the Sudanese border in front of refugees and noted out that measures will be taken to transfer the refugees there to camps.

The governor confirmed the presence of a large numbers of Falasha Jews in the region and said they are under control of the Sudanese security forces.

Foreign Minister Briefs Envoys on Ethiopia

EA161942 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Dr Ma'mun Sanadah, foreign minister and deputy minister for peace and constitutional affairs, held three separate meetings this morning with the ambassadors of the sisterly Arab states, the African states, and the ambassadors of West European states and the United States accredited to Sudan. The talks dealt with Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

Dr Sanadah explained to the ambassadors the circumstances that led to the joint Sudanese-Ethiopian committee not being held. His excellency the foreign minister pointed out the policy of the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese information organs of refraining from tackling issues which might intensify the existing sensitivity between the two countries. Dr Ma'mun Sanadah said: Sudan is still sticking to its view of the need to hold the first round of talks in Khartoum and that the government awaits these talks whole-heartedly. He expressed hope that relations between the two brotherly countries will be characterized by seriousness and sincerity.

The meeting between the foreign minister and the ambassadors accredited to Sudan dealt with Sudan's transitional charter, which was recently signed.

The meetings were attended by Mirghani Sulayman, permanent secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and Dr 'Abd al-Basit Sa'id, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Peace and director general of Political Affairs in the Foreign Ministry.

Official on Joint Meeting

JN191541 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jan (SUNA)—In a press statement here, the Foreign Ministry under secretary has announced that Sudan has not yet received any Ethiopian reply about the meetings of the joint committee for peace talks. He said Sudan has no doubts at all about Ethiopia's good faith and that he is optimistic these meetings will convene and the talks will succeed.

The Sudanese official also said that Ethiopia's recent statement is viewed as a positive signal for holding the meeting in Khartoum. He also said the meeting can be held either in Khartoum or Addis Ababa because the main objective is to produce positive results. He added Sudan is awaiting Ethiopia's reply.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary denied there is any official proposal by any third country to host the meeting.

Chadian Envoy Denies Links With John Garang

JN161741 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 16 (SUNA)—The Chadian president's special envoy Mahamat Nouri has denied any connection between Chad and the rebel movement of Col. John Garang affirming Chad's keenness on promoting relations with Sudan. Nuri, the secretary of the foreign affairs at the Chadian ruling party, has described the relations between Sudan and Chad as good.

In a statement following his meeting here today with member of the Council of the State Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, Nouri said issues of differences between the two countries could easily be overcome.

Affirms Islamic Legion Presence

JN171136 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (SUNA)—An envoy of Chadian President Hissein Habre has denied that Libyan troops are currently in Sudan.

In a press statement made here yesterday, Saturday, after meeting State Council member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din, envoy Mahamat Nouri, secretary of the Foreign Relations Department of the ruling party in Chad, said according to the information they have, there are personnel affiliated with the Islamic Legion here and they are working to bring about instability and harm Sudanese-Chadian relations.

The Chadian envoy also denied Chad has any relations whatsover with the rebel movement lead by John Garang and said his country is eager to promote its relations with Sudan.

The envoy's meeting with Dr Taj al-Din also tackled all aspects of bilateral relations. The envoy described bilateral relations as "good" and said an understanding can be reached on all disputed issues.

Algerian FLN Delegation Meets Al-Mahdi 18 Jan

LD182238 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The National Liberation Front [FLN] delegation, headed by Mohamed Abada, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee and chairman of the Board of Discipline, was received in Khartoum today by Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese prime minister.

The talks dealt with the relations between the FLN and the Al-Ummah Party. On the occasion of its visit to Sudan, the FLN delegation attended the proceedings of the 2d Ordinary Congress of the National Islamic Front held in Khartoum recently.

Muddaththir Praises Iraqi Pilots for 'Airlift'

JN151808 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] Khartoum (INA)—Comrade Badr al-Din Muddaththir, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Sudan, has addressed the following cable to the pilots and navigators who implemented the Iraqi airlift to support the Sudanese Armed Forces:

To the Iraqi pilots:

We greet you and the valiant Iraqi Army under comrade struggler Saddam Husayn. We convey to you the praise of all Ba'thists and the struggling masses of our people for Iraq's eloquent lessons, which embody the bases of the unity of Arab struggle. This was when the brave men of Iraq defending the eastern flank of the Arab homeland gave a part of their equipment, weapons, and ammunition to perform the pan-Arab duty of supporting the heroic Sudanese People's Armed Forces, the lions of the southern flank.

May God preserve you for struggle. Glory and immortality to our nation.

[signed] Badr al-Din Muddaththir, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party/Sudan.

Comrade Badr al-Din Muddaththir met with the Iraqi pilots. He affirmed that Iraq's pan-Arab stand on Sudan was a vivid example of the relations that should prevail among the Arab countries.

In a speech at a celebration held in honor of the pilots who implemented the Iraqi airlift to support the Sudanese Armed Forces, Muddaththir added that this stand is not surprising, as Iraq is known for its pan-Arab course and its historic pan-Arab leadership, the leadership of comrade struggler Saddam Husayn.

Mine Explosions Occur in Eastern Region

JN191557 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1452 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Jan (SUNA)—Today's issue of AL-USBU' cites reports from the Eastern Region as saying that 2 persons were killed and 10 others were seriously wounded in a mine explosion in the Al-Qurquf [name as received] area on the eastern border last week.

The reports say a mine went off near a civilian vehicle in the city of Al-Qurquf on the eastern border on 14 January. The vehicle was destroyed and the driver and four others were seriously injured.

Another mine went off near a similar vehicle in the same area 2 hours after the first incident, killing two persons and wounding five others. The reports also say investigations indicated that the perpetrators entered Ethiopia.

SPLA Forces Ambush, Kill 'Enemy' Forces

EA151804 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Twenty-four enemy soldiers have been killed and several others were injured in an ambush by SPLA forces of Tughyan Battalion under the direct command of Captain Obuta Mamur Mete and the overall command of Alternate Commander Gilario Modi Horinyang, on Juba-Torit road on 9 January 1988. One tank, two Majirus trucks loaded with ammunition, one land-rover mounted with 12.7 mm antiaircraft gun, and one trailer carrying food items were all destroyed. [passage omitted]

In a similar development, two landmines planted by the same SPLA forces under the direct command of Captain Obuta Mamur Mete destroyed two enemy cars on Juba-Torit road on 12 January 1988. The two vehicles, a lorry and a land-rover were completely destroyed. On the same day, antipersonnel mines also killed seven militiamen of Sadiq al-Mahdi on Juba-Torit road. [passage omitted]

SPLA units of Tingili, Mukshashah, Tafeng and Zalzal, under the direct command of Alternate Commander (Aru Man Chot) and the overall command of Alternate Commander Gilario Modi Horingyang ambushed the enemy convoy from Torit on Torit-Ikoto road on 12 January 1988. Correspondent says that the enemy troops were badly beaten and forced to retreat to Keyala in disarray, leaving behind 18 of their colleagues dead, one of whom was identified as Corporal Hamadallah Hasan Sulayman, Military Identity Card No 480740, and several others were injured. Five lorries were completely destroyed. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Kapoeta Occupied by Rebels

JN161756 Khartoum SUNA in English 1728 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, Jan 16 (SUNA)—Minister of Culture and Information Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm has ruled out the occupation of Kapoeta town, Equatoria Region, by the rebels of SPLM of Col. John Garang, and said the reports on this matter is "baseless".

The minister, in a press conference, held here Saturday noted that the Sudanese Armed Forces are taking full control over the security situations there. He said the power which appeared during the retaking of the border towns of Kurmuk and Qaysan is not to show the adoption of a military solution to southern question but to make the movement know that it can not impose its opinion by force in the Sudan.

Minister of Agriculture Dr 'Umar Nur al-Da'im who participated in the conference said there is no differences among the sons of the Sudan and that the occupation of Kurmuk and Qaysan towns has got the concern of the government because of direct foreign interference.

Sanadah Urges Rebel Leaders To Join Democracy

JN171140 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Jan (SUNA)—The newspaper AL-MAYDAN, mouthpiece of the Sudanese Communist Party, today said Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah has called on the rebel movement leaders to come to Khartoum, operate within the framework of the democratic system in the country, and launch their own political party.

The newspaper said that in an interview with reporters held yesterday, Saturday, following his meeting with the ambassadors accredited in Khartoum, Dr Sanadah affirmed that the Constitution guarantees the freedom of forming and joining political parties for all as long as they do not call for dividing Sudan or partitioning it.

34 Passengers Killed as Boat Sinks in Nile

JN181241 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1031 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Jan (SUNA)—Thirty four persons were killed recently when their sailboat sank while crossing the Nile in the Al-Damir [name as received] area in the Northern region. The victims—all the passengers aboard the boat—were 18 men, 14 women, and 2 children.

Kuwait

Reportage on Visit by Iraqi Vice President

Arrives 16 Jan

LD161040 Kuwait KUNA in English 0934 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 16 (KUNA)—Iraqi Vice President Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim arrived here today leading a ranking delegation on an official visit. 'Izzat Ibrahim was welcomed on arrival by H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad and a number of ministers and top government officials.

The dean of the diplomatic corps here, the Syrian Ambassador 'Isa Darwish, was among the welcoming party.

The Iraqi leader's visit comes at a time when the Arab Gulf region is witnessing hectic diplomatic activities aimed at finding a solution to the Iraq-Iran war. Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has toured the Arab Gulf countries last week amidst reports of a Syrian mediation to bring the Iranians and Gulf officials together to discuss the eight-year-old conflict. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who was in Kuwait and other Gulf countries last week, visited Baghdad yesterday in the course of his tour in the region to demonstrate his country's support to the Arab Gulf countries in the face of Iranian threats.

Received by Amir

JN161027 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1005 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Jan (INA)—His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, amir of Kuwait, received RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, here at noon today. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister; Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, interior minister; and the Iraqi ambassador to Kuwait.

During the meeting, 'Izzat Ibrahim handed the Kuwaiti amir a message from President Saddam Husayn. An INA correspondent learned that the RCC vice chairman had expressed Iraq's appreciation for fraternal Kuwait's stands. These show Kuwait's deep understanding of its pan-Arab responsibilities vis-a-vis the dangers facing the Arabian Gulf in particular and the Arab nation in general. Ibrahim affirmed Iraq's support of Kuwait in the legitimate defense of its security, sovereignty, and dignity against any aggression.

Kuwait's Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah reiterated his country's support for Iraq in the legitimate defense of its territory and sovereignty. Opinions were exchanged on ways to consolidate bilateral relations in various fields. The Arab situation and the Iranian regime's destructive intentions in the region were also discussed.

RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim then held a closed meeting with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, in the presence of Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Confers With Prime Minister

JN161229 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, 16 Jan (INA)—Talks were held here today between RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwait's heir apparent and prime minister. The talks were attended on the Kuwaiti side by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, interior minister and head of the honor mission; and a number of officials from the two sisterly countries.

The INA correspondent has said that Vice RCC Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim asserted Iraq's solidarity with and support for Kuwait in its efforts to safeguard its security and sovereignty and to confront any aggression to which it might be subjected. During the meeting, he also affirmed the importance of joint action on all levels—something which can be brought about through meetings and dialogue. He stressed the importance of implementing the Amman summit resolutions in a manner helping to unify Arab ranks and confronting the dangers facing the Arab nation. The RCC vice chairman also called for bolstering steadfastness and strengthening Arab capabilities, using them to serve pan-Arab causes.

The correspondent added that Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, welcomed 'Izzat Ibrahim's visit to Kuwait and expressed hope that it would contribute to enhancing existing fraternal bilateral relations. He also paid tribute to the great sacrifices that have been offered by Iraq in its repulsion of the aggression and in its legitimate defense of its security and sovereignty, which are the Arab nation's security and sovereignty. He added that Iraq is the Arab nation's lofty and solid fence against the aggressions that seek to undermine this nation.

During the talks, views were exchanged on bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in various fields. Talks also focused on the Arab situation and the Iranian regime's intentions to carry out acts of sabotage in the region.

Concludes Visit, Departs
LD171000 Kuwait KUNA in English 0847 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, Jan 17 KUNA—Deputy chairman of Iraqi Revolution Command Council 'Izzat Ibrahim Sunday left here concluding an official brief visit to Kuwait. Ibrahim was seen off by H.H. the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Interior Minister and head of honorary mission Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir, State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud al-'Usaymi and chief of diplomatic corps the Syrian ambassador and Iraqi ambassador.

Oman

Iranian Official Conveys Velayati Message
JN181356 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Sayf ibn Hamad al-Batashi, Foreign Ministry under secretary for financial affairs and services, has received the Iranian charge d'affaires in Muscat. He conveyed a verbal message from Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs. The message concerns relations between the two friendly countries and how to further promote them, as well as matters of common interest.

Saudi Arabia

Jordan's Al-Qasim Delivers Message to Fahd
LD161455 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 Jan (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, has received a written message from his brother His Majesty King Husayn ibn Talal, the sovereign of the Jordanian Hashemite Kingdom. The message was conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques by his excellency the Jordanian Royal Court chief, Marwan al-Qasim, when he was received today by his majesty, may God protect him. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Envoy Delivers Message to King Fahd
LD171434 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1333 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 17 Jan (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, today received His Excellency 'Izzat Ibrahim, the deputy chairman of the Iraqi RCC, who conveyed to him, may God protect him, a message from his brother his excellency the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister; Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education; Mr Tirad al-Harithi, the Kingdom's ambassador to Iraq; and 'Abd al-Wahab al-Sabbagh, Iraq's ambassador to the Kingdom.

His Excellency 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Iraqi RCC, arrived in Riyadh today at midday. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Official, Minister Discuss GCC Ties
LD161814 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 16, IRNA—Foreign Ministry Director General for Arab and African Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani discussed Iran's cooperation with the (Persian) Gulf Cooperative Council in a meeting with United Arab Emirates (UAE) Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah in Abu Dhabi Saturday.

Lavasani delivered a message from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to 'Abdallah in the meeting, where the two sides also agreed that such contacts between Iran and the six (P)GCC member states should continue in seven sided sessions.

'Abdallah stressed that security of the Persian Gulf should be guaranteed solely by the regional countries. Sincere cooperation among the Persian Gulf countries is a guarantee for restoration of the security, 'Abdallah added.

Delivers Velayati Reply
LD170657 Tehran IRNA in English 0622 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Jan. 17, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Ministry Director General for Political Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani delivered Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati's reply to a message by the United Arab Emirates' minister of state for foreign affairs, Rashid 'Abdallah. Director General of the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council of UAE Foreign Ministry Sayif Sa'id Sa'id and Iranian ambassador to Abu Dhabi attended the meeting.

Reportage on Visit by Egypt's Husni Mubarak

Arrives 15 Jan

JN151643 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1635 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak arrived here today on a visit to Iraq. President Mubarak was accorded an official reception led by President Saddam Husayn. Also present were 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; RCC members; and ministers. The Egyptian president is accompanied by a high-ranking delegation including Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, among its members.

Talks With Saddam Husayn

NC152032 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1955 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (MENA)—Egyptian-Iraqi talks under President Husni Mubarak and his Iraqi host President Saddam Husayn began in Baghdad tonight. The meeting lasted 90 minutes and was attended on behalf of Iraq by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Latif Jasim, minister of culture and information; and the head of President Saddam's office.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for Cabinet affairs and administrative development; Dr Usamah al-Baz, the Foreign Ministry first under secretary and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs; Egyptian Ambassador to Baghdad Ibrahim 'Awf; and Dr Mustafa al-Fiqi, the president's secretary for information.

MENA has learned that President Saddam Husayn explained the current situation on the Iraqi front to President Mubarak and assured him that the front is militarily steadfast with morale high. He stressed thag the Iranians will suffer heavy and massive losses from the attack they are threatening.

The talks also touched on current efforts at the Security Council to implement Resolution 598 to stop the Iraq-Iran war. The Iraqi delegation expressed hope that sanctions would be applied to Iran because of its insistence on continuing the fighting. President Saddam Husayn expressed happiness with Egyptian-Iraqi cooperation in the field of military equipment.

President Saddam Husayn asked President Mubarak to raise a number of specific points with European and American leaders during his coming tour.

President Mubarak briefed the Iraqi delegation on the results of his consultations and talks with Gulf leaders concerning the dangers of the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Gulf in general. The conferees also assessed the results of the Amman summit of reconciliation and accord, particularly efforts to reconcile Iraq and Syria, which began with a meeting between the Syrian and Iraqi presidents during the summit. They also assessed the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories and support for the Palestinian issue in all fields. The talks dealt with bilateral relations and their promotion.

Tour Said 'Very Successful'

NC161540 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has asserted that President Husni Mubarak's tour of the six GCC countries, Iraq, and Jordan enhances Egypt's role and importance in the region. In a statement made before leaving Baghdad today, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the tour was very successful and had afforded excellent opportunities for exchanges on both bilateral and general levels. The foreign minister affirmed the tour's importance as it comes before President Mubarak's tour of Europe and the United States.

Referring to the results of the Egyptian-Iraqi talks, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid said that the general objective of the discussions was to unify Arab ranks and to promote collective Arab action, as well as to develop economic and political cooperation between Egypt and Iraq.

Confers With 'Arafat

NC161122 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (MENA)—Before leaving Baghdad at noon today, President Husni Mubarak met with Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. Palestinian sources have said that during their meeting President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat discussed the widespread uprising in the occupied Arab territories, the suppressive Israeli measures, and Egypt's moves regarding the Palestinian issue and an international Middle East peace conference.

Seen Off by Saddam Husayn

JN161119 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1058 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has left Bagdhad at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Iraq. President Mubarak was accorded an official sendoff led by President Saddam Husayn. Also present were RCC members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; RCC members; and the head of the presidential office. 'Uday and Qusay, the sons of President Saddam Husayn, attended the sendoff. The ministers, the president's secretary, and the Egyptian Embassy staff participated in the sendoff.

President Visits 'Arafat, Reiterates Support

JN161907 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1817 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, accompanied by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, visited PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat at his place of residence in Baghdad this evening.

During the meeting, his excellency the president saluted the valiant uprising being staged by the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories and affirmed the support of Iraq—leadership and people—for our Palestinian Arab people in their uprising and just and legitimate struggle under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people.

The leader president urged the Arab nation to continue to provide and increase its political and material support for the Palestinian Arab people and the PLO. He also called for coordinating the efforts of Arab governments and institutions in this regard. Furthermore, he called for tangible resolutions in support of the uprising at the forthcoming session of the Arab League Council to be held in Tunis on 23 January.

Yasir 'Arafat voiced the high esteem he holds for the initiative launched by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He also expressed his pride in the genuine and continuing support being provided by President Saddam Husayn to the struggle being waged by the Palestinian people and their legitimate leadership. He also affirmed the unity of Arab destiny and the interrelationship linking the Arab struggle in its various fronts, citing the Palestinian struggle against the Zionist conquest and occupation and the Iraqi people's struggle against the Iranians' attempts to invade and occupy Iraq.

'Izzat Ibrahim Leaves for Kuwait With Message

JN160932 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0923 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, left for Kuwait this morning. The president's personal envoy will convey a written message to the Kuwaiti amir.

Returns From Visits

JN181916 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpt] RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim returned to Baghdad this evening at the end of a 3-day tour of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. In a statement to INA, 'Izzat Ibrahim said that during his tour he had conveyed two written messages from President Saddam Husayn to his brothers His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of Kuwait, and His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. He added that he is carrying to President Saddam Husayn the greetings of His Highness Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, as well as their appreciation for the great heroic deeds and sacrifices of the Iraqi people in defense of the homeland and the Arab nation's principles.

He asserted that his talks with the brothers in the two fraternal countries were positive and fruitful. These talks were characterized by cordiality and full understanding and embodied the joint eagerness to enhance the pan-Arab struggle and confront the challenge posed to the Arab nation, particularly the dangers resulting from the Iranian regime's subversive and aggressive intentions. 'Izzat Ibrahim said the brothers' viewpoints were in agreement concerning the assessment of the Arab situation and the need for continued coordination and consultations to bolster joint Arab action and unify efforts to promote the Arab nation's capabilities and safeguard its unity, security, and sovereignty.

Receiving 'Izzat Ibrahim upon his arrival at the airport were Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Hasan 'Ali, RCC member; and Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker. Also receiving him were Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command members Muhammad Hamzah, transportation and communications minister; Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, interior minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; as well as a number of ministers. [passage omitted]

Al-Rafidayn Movement 'To Retaliate' for Attack

NC190715 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0628 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] In a contact with a foreign news agency in Beirut, the Islamic Al-Rafidayn Movement has accused Iraqi intelligence of assassinating one of the pro-Iranian Iraqi Shi'ite opposition leaders in Sudan last Sunday. The movement threatened to retaliate both inside and outside Iraq.

It should be recalled that in September 1986 the Al-Rafidayn Movement had claimed a series of operations against Iraqi interests, including the kidnapping of Iraqi diplomat Kamal 'Abd Husayn in Cyprus. The Movement proved its action with photographs.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 2,987

JN151734 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,987 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Each day our Armed Forces become stronger and more capable and inflict on the covetous aggressors additional losses. The results of our forces' activities for last night and today are as follows:

1. Our heroic Air Force, which enjoys God's satisfaction and the people's and the great leader's appreciation, continues its destructive blows to the pillars of aggression, tearing up the lifelines of the oil supplies of the evil regime ruling in Tehran. With God's help, these two missions were implemented:

a. At 2120 [1820 GMT] yesterday, our true hawks attacked a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate and effective blow.

b. At 0500 [0200 GMT] today, our jets launched a successful raid on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast, scoring an accurate and effective blow.

After carrying out their missions, the hawks returned with their planes safely to base in God's care and protection.

2. Our daring helicopters flew 26 combat sorties, inflicting on the enemy losses in personnel, weapons, and hardware. Our helicopters then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. In the I Army Corps northern sector, four enemy personnel were killed, one vehicle was damaged, and its occupants were killed or wounded.

4. In the II Army Corps central sector, five enemy soldiers were killed and two large vehicles were destroyed.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, two infantry positions and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed.

6. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one enemy scoundrel was killed.

7. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, five enemy soldiers were killed and two vehicles and one motorcycle were burned and destroyed.

8. In the VII Army Corps sector, one infantry position and three machineguns were destroyed.

9. A number of enemy soldiers sought refuge with our forward units and were evacuated safely to the rear lines.

10. The criminal enemy shelled the Bimalik housing complex in Qal'at Dizah with long-range artillery today. As a result, three civilians, including one woman, were wounded. Swift recovery to our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 January 1988

Communique No 2,988

JN161815 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,988 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 16 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces will remain a towering mountain and a sword brandished in defense of this dear homeland embodying our people's will through their daring activities in the operational sectors. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today.

1. Five infantry positions were destroyed and their occupants either killed or wounded in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. One scoundrel was killed, one medium machinegun was destroyed, and one shovel [preceding word in English] was burned and destroyed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akhbar forces.

3. Thirteen enemy personnel were killed and one infantry position was destroyed in the II Army Corps cenrtral sector.

4. Three enemy soldiers were killed and two infantry positions and one machinegun were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan spotted an enemy group of 17 personnel. Our unit attacked them, killing five and forcing the rest to flee. Elswhere in the same sector, one infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed or wounded.

6. Three machineguns and one SPG-9 gun were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. The vile Khomeyniites shelled the Bimalik residential complex in the village of Qal'at Dizah with long-range artillery last night. The shelling wounded seven civilians, including one child and three women. May swift recovery be the lot of our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 January 1988

Iranian Force 'Crushed'

JN171323 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi Armed Forces have crushed an Iranian force which carried out an offensive against an Iraqi formation at 0110 [2210 GMT on 16 January] today having as its target the occupation of some heights in the Mawut area on the northern border between Iran and Iraq.

Commenting on the Iranian announcement that Iranian forces had launched an offensive against Iraqi territory, a military spokesman said that the Iraqi forces confronted the attacking Iranian force with all types of weapons, inflicting heavy losses and capturing several prisoners.

The Iraqi military spokesman said: The Iranian statements, whether on the areas they claim they have reached or on the losses they have inflicted on the Iraqi forces, are pure lies and exaggerations. The spokesman added: The Iranians should have revealed their losses to their people instead of resorting once again to this cheap method and talk about the destruction of 50 or 80 percent of this or that unit.

The spokesman said that no one believes these lies any more, particularly since the Iranian forces have failed to achieve any of their objectives for the past 3 days and fighting is continuing. The spokesman said Iraqi forces are in complete control of the situation and are inflicting further losses on the Iranians every hour.

The military spokesman concluded by saying: As was the case with previous battles, this battle will be settled in Iraq's favor in record time. The last one to speak about holy Jerusalem and Palestinian rights should be the Iranian Government, whose cooperation with the Zionist entity has been exposed through arms deals and whose agents set Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon on fire.

Communique No 2,989

JN171725 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,989 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 17 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The sons of Iraq, who are struggling for the sake of right and who are defending their land and their people's dignity with honor and capability, are continuing their heroic confrontation of the forces of injustice on the battlefield. The following are the results of their activities for last night and today:

1. One vehicle was burned and its occupants killed and one observation post was destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. One of our units in the II Army Corps central sector spotted 10 enemy personnel who were trying to approach one of our positions. Our unit attacked them and killed them all. Elsewhere in the sector, five enemy personnel were killed.

3. Eight enemy personnel were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Five scoundrels were killed and four others were wounded and two infantry positions were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Four infantry positions, one personnel shelter, one observation post, and one vehicle were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. The criminal enemy shelled residential areas in the suburbs of Qal'at Dizah and the Bimalik housing complex with long-range artillery. One woman was wounded. Swift recovery for our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 January 1988

Offensive 'Contained'

JN181147 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1052 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has announced that the Iranian forces in the Mawut area, northern Iraq, sustained large numbers of dead and wounded in battles there and that the Iranian forces are facing fatigue and collapse. He added the Iraqi forces have completely contained the Iranian offensive and that this offensive was stillborn.

The Iraqi spokesman considered the new Iranian failure a link in the chain of failures sustained by Iranian forces in previous attempts. The spokesman added that the new Iranian failure proves that Iran cannot face Iraq. It is a new sign that the Iranians cannot achieve their objectives of penetrating the impregnable Iraqi defenses, which have become stronger in confronting Iranian intentions to penetrate this sector.

The Iraqi spokesman ridiculed the Iranian claims about the military situation in the village of Mawut. He added that the media clamor created by Iran every now and then is fabricated, planned, and prepared in advance before the battles are even waged. The spokesman added that Iran lies blatantly and that the number of the Iraqi battle losses announced by Iran exceeds the full size of the units in question.

The spokesman affirmed that the military units which were mentioned in the Iranian communiques did not enter the battle. He added that some of these units do not exist in the sector in the first place. This affirms the falsity of the Iranian claims, the spokesman said. The Iraqi spokesman described the Iranian practice of announcing false claims as stupid. He said that fabricating figures according to the Tehran rulers' desires and contrary to reality will not change their tragic situation.

The spokesman added that the Iranian people will realize the size of the losses when their sons, whom the Iranian regime sent to this battle, do not return. They sustain these losses as a result of their rulers' insistence on their stupid course. The spokesman noted that the Iranian people will know that the Iranian rulers' main concern is to turn their sons into torn corpses on the mountains, valleys, and plains.

Communique No 2,990

JN181729 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,990 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 18 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With firm faith and high morale, our brave Armed Forces continue their heroic activities in the operational theaters, inflicting further losses on our Khomeyniite enemies. The results of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today were as follows:

1. A courageous force from one of our units in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan raided enemy positions opposite it and clashed with the scoundrels using all types of weapons. The force destroyed the enemy positions, killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers, and forced the remainder to flee. The force then returned safely to base after seizing a quantity of hardware and equipment which the scoundrels had left in their positions. In another area in the sector, one enemy soldier was killed and one single-barreled machinegun emplacement was destroyed.

2. One enemy soldier was killed, two infantry positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

3. In the Special I Army Corps sector of the Allahu Akbar Forces, one scoundrel was killed.

4. One enemy soldier was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Two infantry positions and one machinegun emplacement were destroyed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and one enemy soldier was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. One ammunition dump was blown up and two infantry positions were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

7. A number of Iranian military men sought refuge with our forward units. They were safely evacuated to rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 January 1988

'New Action' in North Denied

JN191046 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1022 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has affirmed that the Iraqi forces have been in full control of the Mawut area of northern Iraq for 4 days. The spokesman denied Iranian claims about new action against the Iraqi forces in the area and said the Iranian forces had sustained heavy losses and had retreated from the targets they attacked. The spokesman added that there is no Height No 1775 in the area mentioned by Iran.

12 Iranian Positions Destroyed

JN191454 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1442 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi forces destroyed 12 infantry positions and killed 4 Iranian soldiers during their military activities in the operational areas last night and today. In a statement to INA, an Iraqi military spokesman said that a number of Iranian soldiers sought refuge with forward Iraqi units and were evacuated safely to the rear.

UN's Goulding Continues Visit, Meets Goren

Agree on Supplies to Camps

TA171848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding today met the coordinator for the administered territories Shmu'el Goren. The meeting was in Tel Aviv where Sabra Chartrand reports:

The meeting between Goulding and Goren focused on the complaints pressed by the UN envoy against the behavior of Israeli authorities in the territories, and the condition of life in general in the Palestinian refugee camps. Goulding told Goren he was especially concerned for the camps' military-imposed curfew since last week.

[Begin Goulding recording] In particular I wanted to raise with him the question of access for food and medical supplies to the camps in the Gaza Strip, which are at present under curfew. Mr Goren answered, or discussed, all the points I raised with him on the wider issues, and he agreed to intervene with the deputy civilian administrator in the Gaza Strip about this question of access for food to the camps which are under curfew, and we agreed that it was important that there should be the fullest possible coordination in these matters between UNWRA in the Gaza Strip and the Civil Administration there. [end recording]

Goulding, who leaves Israel tomorrow, refused to comment on the written report he will submit to the Security Council after his week-long fact-finding mission. Goren stressed to the under secretary that the curfews in the territories were necessary to prevent demonstrations, which could result in injuries.

Goulding complained about a blockade preventing United Nations relief supplies from entering the camps. Goren, an aide reported, immediately telephoned Army authorities in Gaza, who said all supply trucks are being allowed to enter the camps, with the exception of one which was found to contain 20 youths trying to sneak into a curfewed area.

Goren criticized the United Nations for not doing more to improve the standard of living for residents in the territories. He stressed that the refugee problem began in 1948, and not with the 6-Day War, and told the envoy he must differentiate between political conflict and the need to improve living conditions. Why doesn't the United Nations do more? Goren asked repeatedly, and was told the international relief agency simply lacks the funds.

Goulding Reveals Impressions

TA172006 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding will return to New York tomorrow to report his impressions from his tour in Israel. In an interview with our correspondent Ehud Ya'ari, Goulding said he had heard ideas from Palestinian figures for improving the situation in the refugee camps and for attaining interim agreements with Israel until a comprehensive agreement is reached.

[Begin videorecording in English with Hebrew subtitles] [Goulding] My main impression is that what has happened during the last 5 weeks has shown that 20 years of Israel's occupation of the territories has finally produced a situation which is not really tolerable for either side. For the Palestinians it's produced a hopelessness, a despair, which has now erupted in violence and which in my view will not be cured except through a political settlement. For Israel it has produced an extraordinary, difficult challenge to the high standards by which Israel governs itself.

When I say that I don't think only of the well-known problem of how you give genuine political rights to the people of the territories if the occupation continues. I am also thinking of what I have seen myself of the effect of this situation on individual Israelis, on Israeli society; what is going to happen if for the indefinite future, not every day but from week to week or month to month, Israel has to use armed force to suppress unarmed demonstrators. So, what I am really saying is that all this underlines the pressing need for the negotiation of a political settlement acceptable to all.

[Ya'ari] Is it true that you are considering the possibility of suggesting sending some UN observers or something similar to that to the refugee camps, pending a political settlement?

[Goulding] It is well known that a number of people have floated ideas of that kind. Their ideas were mentioned to us by various people whom we have seen during the last week. I am not now in a position to say whether or not the secretary general will recommend such a course. I can say that such a course will be discussed in this report, as well as all the ideas which we have collected during this visit.

[Ya'ari] Did you have any specific proposals, for example, from the Palestinians you were meeting with here concerning what could be done in order to make the present situation, let's say, more tolerable or acceptable to them?

[Goulding] We had a number of proposals from the Palestinians we met. Some proposals relating to the immediate situation, the immediate problems they have with the security forces, with getting food into the camps, with health care, and so on. We had other suggestions from them about ideas which might form part of transitional arrangements. Finally, of course, we had their proposals for a political settlement. Again, I am sorry to be difficult, but I don't want to make public reference to any of these proposals until I have had a chance to (?send them) to New York and consult the secretary general, and the decision will be taken by him on what he is going to say to the Security Council. [end recording]

Thatcher 'Severely Criticized' Mellor Actions

TA170517 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has severely criticized David Mellor, the minister in the Foreign Office, for his statements and actions during his visit to Israel. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has learned that Mrs Thatcher told her associates that Mellor caused great embarrassment to the governments of Israel and Britain and caused substantial damage to bilateral relations. She believes Mellor also harmed the peace process in the region.

Cabinet Session Praises Thatcher Reprimand

TA171145 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1108 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami from the broadcasting van outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] This morning's Cabinet session, like so many before it, again opened with the review of events in the territories. The reports were given by Ministers Rabin and Bar-Lev—again, as in the past 6 weeks.

Then Minister Peres asked: Why did we have to wait 24 hours for reports on the Temple Mount to be disseminated? Why did the police affairs minister not hold a news conference immediately after the incident to report exactly what happened there? Minister Navon asked: Why did police forces have to enter the Temple Mount in the first place?

Police Affairs Minister Bar-Lev answered: There were riots, PLO flags were hoisted, and Israeli and U.S. flags were burned. All this required the entry of the police force.

Deputy Prime Minister Navon then queried: Why did the police have to bear weapons?

Minister Rabin answered: Would you rather have unarmed soldiers and policemen? Would you prefer them to enter without weapons?

That was the tone of the debate, with Minister Peres saying: There is no disagreement on security-related activity or on certain elements of the defense policy. Why can't we also agree on the need and urgency for the political element, or the political solution, to be acceptable to all of us and thereby put an end to the unrest in the territories?

Another minister who participated in the debate was Minister Moda'i, who said that it is necessary to handle the unrest matter, particularly information regarding it, firmly. It is necessary to cover every aspect. He believes a four-member ministerial committee on information should be established at once to handle the issue. This committee should brief our representations abroad on the necessary information, and, if necessary, its members should depart on information campaigns, mainly to the United States.

Minister Moda'i also dispatched congratulations to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the sharp reprimand she issued to David Mellor over his remarks and activity during his tour of Israel. Minister Moda'i also congratulated U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz for saying that the United States will not vote against Israel in the United Nations anymore.

This is how the debate began. In the background of these briefings were reports from overseas on the great hostility shown by the world media as well as governments all over the world following events in the territories. The U.S. Administration has, furthermore, apparently intimated recently the possibility that the Reagan plan of September 1982 might be revived if the current situation in the territories continues. This is an initial report on the first part of the Cabinet session, which is still continuing.

Communique 'Political' Wording

TA171741 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Following reports to the Cabinet by the defense and police ministers on the incidents in the territories, Prime Minister Shamir refused to add Minister Peres' remarks that a political move must also be taken to put an end to the riots to the words of appreciation to the security forces. Our correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the prime minister said that since the reports were on the security situation, there would be no political discussion. Minister Qatzav asked Mr Peres if in his view a territorial compromise would put an end to the riots. Mr Peres was adamant in his demand to include the political aspect in the communique. In the end, the Cabinet added a paragraph to the appreciation conveyed to the security forces, saying that the remarks were being made despite disagreements on issues linked to the political process.

U.S., UK Stands on UN Resolution Satisfactory

TA191119 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Israel has expressed satisfaction with the U.S. veto of the Security Council resolution regarding the Air

Force attacks in Lebanon. The Foreign Ministry spokesman told our political correspondent that Israel is also satisfied with Britain's decision to abstain.

Shamir Rejects Reagan Plan, UN Force in Camps

TA181829 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Shamir also went to Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus today to visit the border policeman hurt during last Friday's disturbances on the Temple Mount. After the visit Shamir told reporters that Israel continues to reject the Reagan plan calling for a confederative solution between Israel and Jordan over the administered territories. The prime minister also rejected the possibility of direct negotiations between Israel and Yasir 'Arafat, and Shamir said he opposed the stationing of a UN observer force at Palestinian refugee camps in the territories. Concerning last Friday's riot on the Temple Mount, reporter Shlomo Berger asked Shamir about the wisdom of using force at Muslim holy places.

[Begin Shamir recording] Israel doesn't use any security means in holy places. We are protecting, we are respecting all the holy places in Jerusalem and everywhere, but sometimes there is a need to protect our people, our security forces, and they are forced to do it. [end recording]

Sharon Comments on Relations With U.S., Likud

TA151342 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon believes that despite the Security Council condemnation of Israel, we must impose order in areas of unrest. Our correspondent Dan Eshel asked Sharon for his reaction to the U.S. position regarding the issue of Israel's condemnation in the Security Council:

[Begin recording] [Sharon] The United States has never agreed with certain moves we make. Bilateral relations, however, are built upon a very broad network of interests and on a long-standing friendship. At the same time there are quite a few points of disagreement. In these issues which have to do with our very existence, we have to follow our own interests and act according to our own understanding. We are those who live here.

[Eshel] We are witnessing the emergence of a dovish group in the Likud, headed by Moshe 'Amirav. How would you define this phenomenon?

[Sharon] I think this thing is given undue attention. The Herut Movement is based upon a clear ideology in everything relating to Eretz Yisra'el and its borders and to the exclusive rights of the Jewish people over Eretz Yisra'el. Therefore, there is no place in the Herut Movement for such opinions, and since this is an ideological movement there is no danger that such opinions will spread among Herut members.

[Eshel] Do you agree with those who demand the expulsion of 'Amirav from the Herut Movement?

[Sharon] There is a legal process pending against him in the Herut Party. In my opinion there is no place for him in the Herut Movement. [end recording]

Shamir Cites Mubarak on Threat to Relations

TA181357 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] In the last few days Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has exchanged messages with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak concerning the situation in the territories. Speaking at a session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Shamir said Mubarak had complained about the policy of deportations and the treatment of demonstrators. Mubarak said this might affect bilateral relations, and Shamir replied to him that Israel was responsible for returning life in the territories to normal. Shamir told Mubarak that Egypt could help by taking action to convene a regional forum with the participation of Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and selected representatives of the Palestinians.

Our correspondent Natan Gutman reports that Shamir sharply criticized the European Parliament for its decision not to ratify a commercial agreement with Israel. This is an obvious attempt at blackmail because of political differences, the prime minister said.

Peres Meets Basyuni, Notes Egypt's 'Concern'

TA191151 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni conferred with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres this morning. Basyuni expressed Egypt's concern about the continued unrest in the territories, as well as its dissatisfaction with the conduct of the Israeli Police in the course of the incidents which took place on Jerusalem's Temple Mount last Friday. This is reported by our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel.

Shamir Calls on Egypt To Resume Autonomy Talks

TA181627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he will call on Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to resume the autonomy talks. In a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Mr Shamir said that his conclusion from Mubarak's remarks to the effect that he regrets that Egypt stopped the autonomy talks because of pressure from Arab countries, is that Mubarak will show understanding and sympathy for this solution. Mr Shamir believes that if Mubarak agrees to this move, it will then only be necessary to act to enlist the agreement of Jordan and the authoritative representatives of the Palestinian Arabs for such talks.

Leaders' Comments, Policy on Territories Noted

Rabin on Liberal Use of Curfews

TA170815 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Jan 88 pp 1, 7

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur and Gid'on Alon]

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is determined to permit the IDF to impose curfews extensively and liberally until it is decided that the territories have entered a quiet period. The defense minister has given the commanders of the various commands permission to impose curfews on the areas under their jurisdiction every morning in accordance with their local conditions. Each such incident is reported to the defense minister, who approves it.

The defense establishment contends that Israel should not shrink from the use of this tool and maintains that the imposition of curfews on the refugee camps over the last few days is not something new.

They argue that in the 1970's, too, there were extended periods in which vast areas in the territories were under curfew for periods of 6 weeks. [passage omitted]

The IDF is preparing for a protracted deployment of large forces in the territories, and has been introducing additional personnel and anti-riot gear. [passage omitted]

Peres Predicts Scenarios

TA151959 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Yig'al Goren; date and place not given—videorecorded]

[Text] [Peres] Without a political process the situation will continue to deteriorate. In the past the Palestinians tried to influence the Arab countries to fight in their name and in their place. Now they have found out that they have their own fighting power.

[Goren] What are the operative conclusions you intend to draw from this situation, which everyone now agrees is unprecedented?

[Peres] There are three possible situations: One is that nothing will be done and that we will continue fighting the stones and the knives. The second is the possibility of negotiations with Jordan, hoping that these incidents will stop. And the third is that we enter negotiations but the incidents continue. The worst possibility is incidents with no negotiations.

Israel is already isolated as it has never been in the past. This morning somebody said—and I do not want to say the name—so what, during the Lebanon war we were also criticized, but later everything was forgotten. But what does it mean that everything was forgotten? This man forgot that we withdrew from Lebanon. Had we remained in Lebanon the same situation would still have prevailed. Israel's image at present is extremely bad, and I must tell the public and my colleagues the entire truth.

The second possibility, that we enter into negotiations and that the incidents stop, is the best possibility.

However, even the third possibility, negotiations despite ongoing incidents, is much better than a situation of stones being photographed by all the television stations in the world, which is harming our honor and good name.

The theory about the status quo and that we have time is bankrupt. All the talk that nothing really happened is competely baseless. We are facing a situation which has been created because of the lack of political initiative, and we have to face this situation.

Shomron Interviewed on Policy

TA151351 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (Leshabat Supplement) in Hebrew 15 Jan 88 pp 4, 19

[Report on an interview with Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron by Ron Ben-Yishay on 12 January; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Dan Shomron is the man who is supposed to execute a policy. Today, some 5 weeks after the beginning of the disturbances and the riots, the chief of staff believes that the collective punishments currently being enforced by the IDF will bring about calm within 2-3 weeks. "The main question is not when this wave of riots will die down," Dan Shomron says, "but what will remain of it in the collective memory of the inhabitants of the territories.

"On the one hand they will remember that they actually succeeded, without any advance preparations, to get out to the streets, raise international awareness of their cause, and also bring their problem to the top of Israel's priorities. This may encourage them to do it again. On the other hand, however, there will also be the bad memories to counter this tendency, memories about daily hardships and about the financial and other damages they sustained during this period.

"Through the new policy we have been enforcing in the territories since the beginning of last week," the chief of staff says, "we want to implant deterrent memories in their consciousness that will have an effect in the future. We impose curfews on any refugee camp where riots take place. They will not go to work, they will not earn a living, and they will not receive travel permits and business licenses until they realize that peace is as vital for them as it is for us."

Question: "Are you not afraid that collective punishments may draw those who have so far kept away into the circle of violence?"

Answer: "We are aware that these actions also affect those who do not take part in the disturbances and who only want to go quietly to work in Israel. In the present circumstances, however, this is an unavoidable price. At the same time, we are trying not to exacerbate their feelings of frustration and anger. We go to great lengths not to arrest innocent people, and we occasionally lift the curfew to allow them to purchase food and other necessary staples.

"We will not starve the refugee camps. We are trying to impart the rules of the game to them very clearly: When the riots end, those who want to mind their own business rather than take part in new riots will be allowed to do so as much as possible. We will, however, proceed against those who agitate with all our might. Still, in order for these rules to come into effect, there must first be quiet in the territories."

The chief of staff does not regret abstaining from imposing collective punishments as soon as the riots broke out. "Somebody counseled us then," he says, "to let them have it. Indeed, had we done so, the issue would have been settled in one day. In the territories, however, we operate as a police force. The difference between the police and the army is that the latter can fire live ammunition, kill, and get everybody inside their houses without any of them daring to make a peep, but then we will not be able to say that we are a government that also operates for the benefit of the people living in the territories, a government with which one can later strike agreements.

"Therefore," the chief of staff continues, "in the first spate of the riots, we allowed those who wanted to go on with their normal lives to get to work. When the second wave of riots began we enforced a new policy. Once the situation is quiet, we will return to the old rules of the game."

Question: "Some argue—and even quote a senior officer as having said as much—that the lukewarm behavior during the first wave of the riots made us lose control of the area and the main roads."

Answer: "I do not know who the senior officer is this time whom the media likes to quote so much. I usually throw anonymous notes in the wastebasket. He who is not prepared to say what he has to say openly is unreliable.

Israeli citizens live both in Judaea and Samaria. Thousands of students drive to school every day and people drive to and from work. This can hardly be regarded as having lost control. I am not saying that stones were not thrown at cars, but all in all, life in the territories proceeds normally."

Although Shomron believes that the second wave of the riots started because of the deportations, he thinks the decision as well as the timing of the deportations were appropriate. "The very fact of the ferment proves how effective the deportations are. This is a deterrent punishment in the long run although in the short run it is a provocative factor."

Question: "Where do you think the focus of the ferment lies? What is the most difficult tactical problem to solve?"

Answer: "There is no doubt that the Gaza Strip presents us with the most difficult problem. Close to 70 percent of the population there are refugees, most of them have been living in refugee camps since 1948. Most of the youths were born and raised in those camps, and their living conditions are worse than those of other inhabitants elsewhere in the Gaza Strip. There is a rivalry between these two groups, and this is the source of the ferment.

"Also, religious fanatics and the Islamic Jihad have a lot of influence in Gaza, particularly on the young population. In Judaea and Samaria, on the other hand, only 15 percent of the population are refugees, and many of them no longer live in camps.

"Most of the population in Judaea and Samaria have something to lose, and, consequently, the nature of the demonstrations there is less intense and violent. Some of the demonstrations in Gaza were very large and attended by thousands, whereas in Judaea and Samaria only a few dozen took part. Also, the level of violence in Judaea and Samaria is lower.

"It would be wrong, however, to think that there is no problem in Judaea and Samaria. A young generation has grown there that is more educated and has higher political awareness, a generation that has grown in our midst, in Israel's democracy. They learned from us that one can strike and demonstrate, and a gap has emerged between the young and old generation, who learned different rules of the game under Husayn. The young people are no longer prepared to accept the authority of the adults, and they rebel."

At present, there are people in the defense establishment, particularly in the office of the coordinator of activities in the territories, which is in charge of the Civilian Administration, who claim that the Shin Bet did not provide advance notice about the possibility that riots might break out on such a wide scale. Sources close to the Shin Bet say: "Nonsense, we provided advance notice and recommended that troops be sent immediately to quell the riots."

The chief of staff believes that there was no advance intelligence information, simply because the riots were not organized in advance but broke out spontaneously. According to Shomron, the PLO was also surprised by what happened.

According to the chief of staff, if anybody should have given advance notice, it should have been the Civilian Administration. "The Shin Bet does a good job, provides advance notice, and thwarts many terrorist organizations. Whenever people get together to perpetrate a terrorist attack or one of the terrorist organizations plans an attack, the Shin Bet gets word of it. In this case, however, there were no preparations or organizations involved. The Civilian Administration has a better feel when it comes to sensing moods. It sensed that there was tension but did not anticipate the eruption of such wide-scale and violent demonstrations."

Question: "The main criticism that is currently being leveled at the chief of staff and the defense minister is that you failed to read the map and did not bring into the territories enough forces immediately after the disturbances erupted."

Answer: "The public does not know that we brought in forces right at the beginning. Actually, even before 9 December (the date of the first outbreak in the Gaza Strip), we increased our forces in the Gaza Strip by a third because of the tension in the air following the murder of Saqal in Gaza's market.

"When the riots erupted in Jabalyah on 9 December following the death of an inhabitant, we quickly increased the number of units there. Within 3 days the number of IDF forces patrolling Gaza and Judaea and Samaria increased threefold in comparison to normal times. Now we have decided to 'sit' on all the refugee camps at once and at the same time to prevent them from demonstrating. Therefore, our present forces there are even larger.

"We are not using tanks, only a small number of armored personnel carriers for traveling in places where there are nails, roadblocks, and tires. We do not want to add to the pictures in the media the dimension of tanks patrolling in the refugee camps."

Question: "How long do you think you can continue to deploy such large forces in the territories? Does it not harm the IDF's state of alert?"

Answer: "Obviously this is a great burden on the IDF, but we have great perseverance from this point of view. It is a big mistake to think that the IDF cannot withstand this. Even after the situation calms down, the speed with which we will thin out our forces and the size of the forces which we will leave there will depend on our feelings on what is happening or what may happen in the areas."

The chief of staff regards the intensive Israeli and international media coverage of the events in the territories as a central cause of the unrest. "The media does not only convey pictures, it also unintentionally creates them. Quite a large percent of the demonstrations started out due to the presence of the media. "At the same time I do not believe that Israel can close the areas to the media hermetically. When the professional judgment requires this, however, we close down areas for a limited time. When we have to disperse a demonstration, for example, it is inconceivable for photographers to be running between our legs. They are physically disrupting our work. When this happens we tell them 'stay here, you have telescopic lenses, take your pictures from a distance of several dozen meters. Once the demonstration is over you can walk around freely.' This holds true unless there is a curfew or unless an area is declared a closed military zone."

Question: "As chief of staff, what is the most important lesson you have learned from the events of the last few weeks?"

Answer: "That these things can happen very fast, and therefore we must be prepared to react quickly. This is why the IDF is purchasing means for police duties (shields, helmets with face shields, rubber bullets, gas grenades, and riot control vehicles with water cannons) these things will be deployed in places that will facilitate quick distribution when we have to activate large forces.

"We will also prepare the men, both mentally and professionally, for police and riot control work. We will do this in the military academies and the instruction installations. However, let there be no misunderstanding: Our main mission is to prepare for war. Preparing men for police missions is only a secondary mission.

"I believe that deploying the IDF as a police force does not add to its strength. In some ways it is also contrary to the basic values on which you train a soldier. You train him to minimize distances, to act quickly and aggressively in order to kill the enemy, conquer territory or both. Here, on the other hand, you are asking him to disperse the demonstrations gently and to wait.

"When I speak with officers and soldiers they sometimes convey instinctive feelings of wanting to shoot. But when you ask a soldier 'well, do you really propose to fire at this crowd?' then nobody will answer in the affirmative.

"There is certainly a dilemma here for the soldiers and officers, but I do not think it is causing them long term mental damage. I found out that they fully understand the situation in the territories and the restrictions under which the Army—which actually serves as a police force—is operating. One day it is dispersing the demonstrations with force and the next it has to supply food to the inhabitants and to take care of their living conditions."

Sharon Discusses Solution

TA131725 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Gid'on Reicher in the studio—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reicher] In view of the fact that you were once defense minister, I would like to ask you what you would do as defense minister when your soldiers, who had been trained in warfare and the operation of sophisticated equipment, are today facing children with stones in their hands. You said you have ideas and solutions. What should be done?

[Sharon] It should be understood that this is not an accidental wave of terror or riots, as the situation was explained a few weeks ago. I argued at that time that we are facing a new situation, and this is indeed a new situation. It is not a situation which has developed overnight. It is not the result of a single cause, neither a traffic accident nor anything else. It is a situation which has evolved mainly as a result of the strengthening of the PLO's political arm.

The first thing I would have done—and this is why I wanted the minicabinet to be established, so it can make decisions—is to act against the PLO's political arm, using a whole series of measures. There is a whole list of organizations that are active in the area. There are organizations and youth movements that stand behind the disturbances and the Molotov cocktails, which have in fact turned into real arms in daily use. Over the last few days I heard that the cause of the unrest is attributed to local organizing and that the PLO had lost control, as it were...

[Reicher, interrupting] This is what Defense Minister Rabin said.

[Sharon] Let me categorically state that we are talking of activity backed by the terrorist organizations. The body which stands behind this activity in the Gaza Strip for example is the Islamic Jihad which is today an arm of Fatah, with its commander located in Jordan. I made a demand in this context once, but it has not been met so far...

[Reicher, interrupting] Did you demand the removal...

[Sharon, interrupting] I demanded the removal from Jordan [of terrorist leaders], that we demand this of Jordan, prior to any political negotiations. As with the minicabinet proposal, I was the single person who voted for this removal proposal.

As for the Gaza Strip, again, the organization that causes agitation there is the Islamic Jihad. It is active especially in the southern Gaza Strip. It controls the other organizations too.

[Reicher] Is any Arab child who throws a stone at an Israeli soldier controlled by these elements which you have named?

[Sharon] Each and every child is not necessarily directly controlled. Still, it is the Islamic Jihad which pulls the strings in the Gaza Strip today.

As for Judaea and Samaria, it seems that Hawatimah's organization is the main organization there, leading the other organizations active there.

[Reicher] What should we do with the members of these organizations then? Shall we expell them, put them in jail?

[Sharon] There is a whole series of measures available. We should first outlaw these organizations, and this necessitates legislation. We live in a democratic country, but this definitely does not run counter to democracy. In my opinion, such a measure rather defends democracy. A state is entitled to live in security and its citizens are entitled to live in peace.

It is necessary, of course, to handle the financial as well as the operational problems involved. In my opinion, the Shin Bet should again have strong and effective means at its disposal. There are methods of operation here. I think it is perhaps necessary to set up some sort of a unit, a small and special Shin Bet unit, which will focus on specific goals. I would not like to elaborate here. I know exactly how it should be set up and how it should operate, but this is not the only thing.

[Reicher] I would like to ask you about the argument which you had with Peres, the loud tones used there and words such as liar which were exchanged between you. What is the argument actually about? We understood that you said that if he could implement his plan, Peres had actually sold the Old City to Husayn, and that you live there so as to defend our possessions, so to speak. Is this the correct picture?

[Sharon] I said so in the past, and let me repeat it now as well: In the course of the contacts with Jordan, arrangements were made for the gradual transfer of Judaea and Samaria—a joint rule first and then a transfer—and a special status for Jordan in Jerusalem was determined. A special status for Jordan in Jerusalem practically means the transfer of Jerusalem to Jordanian rule. It is not I who raised this matter.

I came to the Inner Cabinet meeting with constructive proposals, and the discussion was a quiet one. The argument was a provocation by Mr Peres intended to divert the discussion from its main topic. I do not wish to be drawn after Mr Peres' rude expressions. I think this was out of place. Regrettably, the man has lost his self-control. Precisely when we are faced with very difficult problems we find ourselves in a situation where this man is unable to deal with such problems. This is indeed a pity.

[Reicher] He says that he wants to deal with the problems, that he wants a political initiative, but that this divided government does not let him do so. It is perhaps worth examining a political possibility which, some say, will prevent the riots in the territories.

[Sharon] We all want a political solution or settlement. I heard the defense minister speak in Gaza a few weeks ago. He said then that terror will continue even if there is a political settlement. What is happening now is a different form of terror. The terrorist organizations reached the conclusion that it is more convenient to activate women, children, and youths. It is not only 12 year old children that we are talking about. Engaged in the riots are also 20 or 30 year old youths or still older people.

I agree with what the defense minister is saying on the matter. Even a political settlement will not prevent the terror activity. We should remember one thing, though. If we express ourselves today the way Mr Peres has, namely, that quiet cannot be restored without a political settlement, this will be another sign for the rioters and those who stand behind them to exacerbate the situation. In my opinion Mr Peres is making matters more difficult with such remarks, as well as endangering those people who are facing the difficulties involved.

I am fully appreciative of the soldiers, the policemen, the border policemen and the Shin Bet people who are challenging these circumstances. During these times, when everybody is engaged in such a hard battle, to come and explain the need for a political settlement first and foremost.... The situation is like having a fire in our house. The first thing that must be done is to put the fire out. Quiet and order must be established rather than pouring fuel on the fire.

[Reicher] In conclusion, Mr Sharon, the audience watching us now must be very worried since, as you say, your advice is not accepted. Those who need to be handled are not handled, and there is talk of a political settlement on top of everything else. What then? The end will be very bad, according to what you say.

[Sharon] There are solutions to the problems, in my opinion. I am speaking out of experience too, as I do have experience in this sphere. To my regret, for 6 weeks now, since the riots began, there has not been even a single serious discussion. There should be a serious discussion. I am emphasizing that there are answers to the problems so as to prevent people from having a feeling of a total lack of security. I believe I am one of those who know the answers, and the point is that these issues should be seriously handled.

Peres on Negotiating Partners

TA161232 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Report by David Essing]

[Text] [Begin Peres recording] I admit it is not a very pleasant time for us. We are not like the French Army in Algeria. Our army does not claim it has a solution, not at all. The boys are fulfilling the thankless task. They themselves don't like it. They are not happy about it. Yet what is the alternative, what can we do? So what we really have and hope to do is to prompt a political opening. [end recording]

That was Shim'on Peres, speaking to a group of American Congressmen in Jerusalem. It was an opportunity for Peres to spell out where he stands in the crisis and deal with the burning issues of the day.

[Begin Peres recording] I know that some people try to compare it to South Africa. I regret very much this comparison. Israel is not against the Arabs, Israel is against stones, against violence. We do not discriminate against anybody because of his race, or color, or religion. What sort of comparison is that? It is normal, as long as we control the areas, we have to provide safety to the people, all of them, Arabs and Jews. [end recording]

Peres told the Americans: We have a problem the same as you did elsewhere. The problem of TV coverage of riots and wars. TV, says Peres, is a one-sided dimension that is often unbalanced.

[Begin Peres recording] When you see on television a young boy throwing a stone, and a young soldier holding a rifle, you are instantly on the side of the boy with the stone. That's a fact. [end recording]

And, Peres said, we do not use drastic measures—contrary to what some people think.

[Begin Peres recording] In the 40 years since the creation of the State of Israel nobody was executed in this country but Eichmann, the only person. In spite of wars, of terror, of violence, of killing children and women, nobody was executed in this country. Our soldiers themselves are in a terrible shape. They say, what do you want us to do when stones are being thrown at us? And many of them, you know, they were showing on television, they run away, what can they do? They are not permitted to shoot. Even if they have a rifle, and they don't use it, they don't have a rifle. [end recording]

But deportation: Why deport Palestinians, Peres was asked.

[Begin Peres recording] We are very much criticized on the issue of deportation. At the beginning we were criticized for using live ammunition. They said: Why did your soldiers use live ammunition? They said: Why did you adopt such a policy? Well, the answer is: It wasn't a policy, all of us were taken by surprise, particularly in the first 2 or 3 days. We had very small groups of soldiers, one or two, walking in the street in an Arab village. All of a sudden, they were attacked by a mass. And in self-defense they shoot. The minute you learn that they are facing a problem you change immediately the tactics. No longer are people being killed—almost, thank Heaven. First of all, we didn't let small groups go, but larger groups, so that they are not being pushed in a corner, and they don't have to use live ammunition. And then we have supplied them with rubber bullets that don't kill. It took a little bit of time, that's all. It wasn't a matter of our country being cruel, or brutal, or supporting lethal weapons, not at all. You know, 40 of our own soldiers were wounded. [end recording]

And Peres argues that deportation is the Jordanian law in the West Bank.

[Begin Peres recording] Although there were nine orders, five have appealed, four decided for reasons of their own not to, I think basically for political reasons. They wanted the deportation. We didn't want this time to put the Jordanians on the spot because we could have easily deported them to Jordan. So they were deported to Lebanon after very strict security measures were taken so that the people will not be in danger, because it is deportation and not killing. The people that were ordered to be deported are all people with a long record, namely they were already in prison, they were already tried time and again, they were warned, and we know for sure, beyond any doubt, because otherwise the court will not approve, they were in the center of the violence. That is how things look in our eyes. Against the very few cases we have to take very, very strong measures. Otherwise we cannot run the areas. [end recording]

And so to the bottom line. What policy should be adopted now? Where is the ultimate solution? Peres says there are two parties who can represent the Palestinians, the PLO and Jordan's King Husayn. First, the PLO.

[Begin Peres recording] Maybe we can meet and negotiate with the PLO straight ahead. But if we shall meet with them, I do not see any possible solution to the problem, because the PLO is anxious to have a state and an army, and you will not find a single Israeli after five wars that will agree to have a hostile Palestinian army 100 yards from this building. Let's not forget that this is not just a matter of arms. It is also a matter of from whom the arms will come. And you don't have the slightest doubt that this will be Russian arms. So to have a Palestinian state oriented on the Soviet Union, with a Palestinian army armed by the Russians, is not an enchanting proposition for us. As much as we may love the Russians, we do not feel discriminated with the fact that they don't sit on the Jordan River. Let them sit on the Volga. [end recording]

So Peres wants the Russians on the Volga, not the Jordan River. And this comment, that surprised his listeners: For Israel to negotiate with the PLO would mean the ultimate destruction of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

[Begin Peres recording] Furthermore, I believe that would we agree to it, the PLO would destroy the Jordanian kingdom. They would never be satisfied with just a state here, and since the majority of people in Jordan are Palestinians, so again, I mean, they would like to control all of the Palestinians. May I say, even in a wider formula, whoever will control the West Bank may gain the East Bank of the Jordan River, and Jordan itself. And one may lose the East Bank if he won't control the West Bank. That's the reason why the king wants to negotiate on the West Bank. [end recording]

So Husayn is the partner. The forum—an international conference needed by the Jordanian leader to face the Arab world. But the road to an international conference is still blocked by obstacles. Peres says Shamir and the Likud are one. Husayn and the U.S. agree that the conference will lead to direct negotiations. But the Soviet Union has been changing its stand. The Russians had first demanded that the conference play an authoritative role. Peres replied: No deal. Since then the Soviets have backed down and now they speak of, quote, a competent conference, unquote. What that means Peres doesn't know yet, but he is trying to persuade them. The Labor Party leader was asked if he will turn the November elections into a national referendum on an international conference.

[Begin Peres recording] It surely will, and no matter what the polls will show. I shall put it on the top of our agenda. I think this is the most important and crucial matter in the lives of our people. Since I'm not fresh in politics, I'm a man with certain experience in it, I know that there are occasions when the problem is not how to win the elections but how to win the issue. It's not a matter who will run the country. It's a matter where will the country go. [end recording]

But Peres is not only waiting for the right Russians. It can also be said that Husayn has not gone public, has not gone all the way on the idea of real, direct negotiations with Israel at an international conference. And then again there is the U.S., not wanting to intervene in Israeli politics, and mainly making noises about the conference.

Not Discounting Elections

TA171648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres does not discount the possibility of holding municipal elections in the territories in order to develop a local leadership. Mr Peres addressed a seminar in memory of David Farhi, who was Arab affairs adviser in the Military Government. Minister Peres rejected the idea of setting up political parties in the territories because any elected leader would have to adopt extremist positions. Minister Peres said that on the other hand, municipal mayors would adopt much more moderate stands, as they have done in the past. He reiterated his opposition to any negotiations with the PLO, and said it was preferable to reach a settlement with Jordan.

Shamir on IDF Restraint

TA180547 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Speaking in Jerusalem last night, Prime Minister Shamir said the only reason why the violence in the territories has lasted such a long time is the restraint shown by Israeli forces trying to curtail it. He was speaking to reporters, including Harley Braidman at the opening of the new Hyatt Hotel in the city. The prime minister was asked to comment on the charge that Israel used force in trying to control the disturbances on the Temple Mount on Friday.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] I regret all what happens in the last weeks in our country. It's not our fault and our Army has very severe orders to refrain from causing any casualties and any human losses and our Army is really doing a very big effort to avoid any bloodshed. If it happens unfortunately from time to time it's only because there are situations when our soldiers are compelled to protect their lives. But I would say that we have to take in consideration and we have to remember that if these riots are lasting still for a few weeks the only reason for it is our strong decision to refrain from causing bloodshed and human losses.

[Braidman] What progress can be made toward a political solution before the elections in Israel?

[Shamir] It's not a question of elections. I think we have first of all to restore the normal life in all the parts of the country and then continue our peace efforts. We have some plans and we are ready for negotiations with our neighbors about peaceful solutions and what is needed is the readiness of our neighbors to come to the table of negotiations. [end recording]

Peres on Early Elections

TA181222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Vice Premier Peres says there may have to be early elections. He was speaking today in Qiryat Ata. More from reporter Vivien Roysten.

[Begin recording] [Roysten] Foreign Minister Peres believes that perhaps the only way to break the present deadlock in the government over an international peace conference is to bring forward the date of the elections.

[Peres] What the security forces are doing is to provide security, not to provide a solution. It is for the politicians of this country to seriously attempt, without avoiding the real issues, and try to renew the peace process in the country.

[Roysten] What initiative do you intend taking to break this deadlock between yourself and the prime minister?

[Peres] Maybe we cannot, so the people will have to decide and maybe the earlier the better.

[Roysten] You mean early elections?

[Peres] It's a possibility, yes.

[Roysten] Foreign Minister Peres maintains that municipal elections in the territories is a viable proposition. Is he not afraid that given the present situation it will basically be PLO representatives who will be elected?

[Peres] And what is the situation now? I mean, you have to compare. I don't suggest to have municipal elections on the West Bank right away, I suggest to keep it in mind as an option. Right away we have to renew the peace process. We cannot just stand on the acts and actions of our security forces who are doing a very difficult job under very difficult circumstances.

[Roysten] The fact that the curfew has been lifted on the refugee camps in the territories but not in Gaza is, according to Peres, a result of facts on the ground and not policy. [end recording]

Shamir on IDF, Journalists

TA181253 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by Greer Fay Cashman]

[Text] Prime Minister Shamir said last night that he regretted the misunderstandings that had occurred between press photographers and the IDF during the violence in the territories.

He was replying to a question at a brief press conference during the official opening of the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Jerusalem.

Sounded out on his reactions to Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat's willingness to give back all the territories captured in the Six Day War except East Jerusalem, Shamir said he was not worried. He added that he hoped Lahat would not repeat his statements, but would not commit himself on Lahat's future in Likud.

Clarifies Autonomy Negotiations

TA181203 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir proposes that the United States and Egypt try to bring about negotiations on the autonomy plan as a solution to the current situation in the territories. The prime minister was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and upon leaving the session he spoke to journalists. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports:

[Begin recording] [Nadav] The question of a political agreement was discussed today by the members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee and the prime minister who attended their session. In the meeting, the prime minister proposed that the United States and Egypt extend their help on this issue.

[Shamir] I did not issue a call for an agreement on autonomy but for negotiations toward an agreement on autonomy. I addressed myself to Egypt and the United States in the hope that they can bring positive elements, such as Jordan and representatives of the Palestinian Arabs living in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, to negotiations based on the principles of autonomy.

[Nadav] When the prime minister says autonomy, he means based on the Camp David Accords.

[Shamir] At the moment it seems to me that autonomy, along the lines described in the Camp David Accords, is the most realistic and best solution. I do not see any other solution under the present circumstances.

[Nadav] The prime minister hopes the United States, Egypt, and the Arab countries will help find the representatives with whom the negotiations on the autonomy would be conducted.

[Shamir] I would like to add that these representatives would not be permanent because according to the autonomy plan in the Camp David Accords the first thing that will be done after the autonomy has been established is to call for democratic elections by the inhabitants of the autonomous area. The authorities of the autonomous area would be chosen in these elections, and they would be the representatives with whom we would hold negotiations from that time on. [end recording]

Lahat Remarks on Policy

TA171151 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Tel Aviv Mayor Shlomo Lahat has said that he has no intention of leaving the Likud, and that at the same time he is not reneging on the statements he made on the Voice of Israel yesterday. He said that it would be advisable that Israel give up all the territories with the exception of Jerusalem. The above was reported to our party affairs correspondent Razi Barqay from the mayor's office.

This week, the Herut Movement's disciplinary court will discuss the demand that Moshe 'Amirav be expelled from the party. It is expected that another Herut Movement institution will be called upon to discuss the demand that Shlomo Lahat, too, be expelled from the party.

Olmert Suggests Reduced Role

TA181546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Another argument has erupted in the Likud, this time in the wake of Knesset Member [MK] Ehud Olmert's remarks that if negotiations with authorized representatives of the inhabitants of the territories do not materialize, Israel could gradually and unilaterally reduce its involvement in the administration of the towns up to the point of withdrawing the Civilian Administration and the Army from the towns and deploying the IDF in strategic civilian spots.

Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that speaking in a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Ehud Olmert said he supports the autonomy plan and proposes its unilateral implementation because he believes there is no other alternative.

In response, MK Gid'on Gadot of the Likud called on Ehud Olmert to state openly whether he favors a withdrawal. Gadot said that if Olmert believes there should be a withdrawal from parts of Eretz Yisra'el or from settlements in those areas, he should say so loud and clear and seek the approval of the Herut Movement's elected institutions. If he does that, Gadot thinks, Olmert's proposal will be struck off the agenda as quickly as Moshe 'Amirav's proposal was.

Bar-Lev on Palestinian Awareness

TA181342 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Israeli Government has reached a dead end as far as the political question and a thorough solution of the problem of the territories is concerned, Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said today. Minister Bar-Lev believes the elections should be brought forward because the political freeze is delaying the resumption of the peace process. He added that it is clear today to the inhabitants of the territories that Israel is strong enough to maintain order, and he said they would be well advised not to violate it.

In an interview with our correspondent Moti Amir, Bar-Lev said he hopes the IDF will not be forced to clamp down on the inhabitants once again after the curfews on the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip are lifted. Minister Bar-Lev also said he hopes the Palestinians in the territories have realized that the Arab countries do not care about them and that nobody has done a damned thing about them except for talking and passing resolutions in the United Nations. Therefore, the only solution is political negotiations with Jordan where there are 2.5 million Palestinians, Bar-Lev concluded.

Rabin Orders 'Force,' 'Blows'

TA191022 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the security forces have received an order to use force, might, and blows to prevent demonstrations. Minister Rabin told our correspondent Arye Gus that the IDF will counter violence with force and wisdom. Mr Rabin emphasized that there is no shortage of food in the refugee camps which are under curfew. The defense minister also advised the delegation of Brazilian parliamentarians who came to examine the situation in the refugee camps to examine the situation in the poor neighborhoods of Rio de Janeiro first.

PLO Overtures Rejected for Territories Talks

TA170944 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 17 Jan 88 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] Israel has rejected outright signals from PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on negotiations on the future of the territories. In his indirect messages, 'Arafat expressed willingness to take immediate action to stem the riots in the territories in return for an Israeli readiness to regard him as a partner in the peace process. The forum of prime ministers, comprising Shamir, Peres, and Rabin, turned down these messages, which were relayed in various ways, including through personalities from the territories and diplomats.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said yesterday that any negotiations with 'Arafat will result in the isolation of King Husayn and the PLO taking control over Jordan. He claimed that it is inconceivable that Israel would maintain any contact whatsoever with 'Arafat and his organization.

It has been learned that Israel has decided to take action against the political bodies in the territories, on the assumption that they are acting as agitators in the territories. The main action will be directed against the political representation of the PLO and Hawatimah's PFLP. Minister Ari'el Sharon has also been pressing for an Israeli action against the terrorist organizations' political offices. At the instruction of the prime minister, the Justice Ministry is currently looking into the various aspects of an operation against these political organizations.

PLO Radio Shows Renewed Syrian Cooperation

TA171237 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Syria's information minister said the uprising in the territories, as he called it, brought a renewal in Damascus' support for the Palestinian struggle, and added that the time has come for actions, not slogans. Our monitor Mikha'el Gurdus adds that these remarks show renewed cooperation between Syria and the PLO.

The Palestinian radio station, which was initially thought to be operating out of Lebanon, is in fact broadcasting from southern Syria, airing slogans supporting the PLO. Syria's Information Minister Muhammad Salman also said the hang glider attack raised Palestinian spirits, and helped lead to what is happening now in the territories. Minister Salman also said there has been an improvement in relations between Washington and Damascus, and the improvement will expand further if the U.S. Administration agrees to a political dialogue with the Syrian authorities.

More on Events, Disturbances in Territories

Rioters Use Homemade Pistols

TA151936 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 88 p A1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] IDF soldiers serving in the territories have recently encountered youths who use homemade pistols with real bullets. The pistols are made out of a pipe and a handle to which is connected a rubber strap which activates a striking pin. The youths use rifle bullets used by the IDF, which they pick up in the area. Some of the bullets have been lost by the IDF soldiers during their operations in the area.

The effective range of the homemade pistols is several dozen meters. A bullet fired from the pistols can cause serious injury and even death.

Yesh Gvul Demonstration

TA161333 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 16 jan 88

[Text] Dozens of members from the Yesh Gvul [There Is a Limit] movement demonstrated earlier today near the Erez border post to protest what they termed the brutal repression of the uprising in the territories and against reserve military duty in the territories. Jewish settlers from the Gaza Strip held a counter demonstration in the place and called the Yesh Gvul members traitors.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a police and border police force maintained order in the place, and after a short time the demonstrators dispersed quietly.

Balatah Camp Demonstration

TA161128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] It is completely quiet in East Jerusalem this morning our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports. Security forces used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators this morning in the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus after earlier demonstrations and curfews were not effective.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the incident occurred when UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding visited the camp. There is a curfew in 15 places in the territories, and there are partial commercial strikes in several towns in Judaea and Samaria.

Quiet has been maintained in the Gaza Strip this morning too. Seven refugee camps and other areas are under curfew. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Civilian Administration makes sure to provide them with water and food, and has permitted local slaughtering to provide fresh meat. UNRWA claims that the curfew impedes on its activities.

Weekend Events Reviewed

TA170627 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Six refugee camps and one town in Judaea and Samaria are still under curfew. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that there was relative calm in the territories over the weekend, with the exception of the large demonstration at Al-Aqsa Mosque. Arye Gus reports:

[Begin recording] Disturbances of the public order, tire burnings, and stone throwing incidents continued in the territories over the weekend, although all in all, as the security forces point out, the disturbances were far milder than before despite the PLO's call to the inhabitants to mark Palestinian martyr day with marches and demonstrations. In some places, the inhabitants heeded the call, resulting in two Salfit residents being wounded by shots fired by the security forces as dozens of youths tried to attack a police station. Salfit was placed under curfew, as were some six Judaea and Samaria refugee camps that have been under curfew for the past few days.

The policy of imposing curfews, swift reaction, and the detention of instigators characterize the handling of the disturbances at the outset of the 6th week of unrest. The defense establishment discussed continuing the curfew policy last week. Several refugee camps have been under curfew for more than a week, but it is possible that pressure on the camps in the territories might be lifted gradually during the week. This might be done by first lifting the curfew on one neighborhood in a refugee camp, and then continuing the process in other places. Another possibility is to extend the hours of the curfew. These actions would be necessary in order to check whether the disturbances resume.

During the week, the Judaea and Samaria Military Government issued some 30 administrative detention injunctions against youths from the territories suspected of incitement and involvement in the last few weeks' events.

As we said before, the disturbances continued in several places, but the commercial strike was not complete and in most places the shops reopened.

The military police are investigating the wounding of a soldier hit by an Arab car at a barricade on the southern slopes of the Hebron Hills. The soldier was hurt as the soldiers manning the barricade were dismantling it. The investigation is now focusing on finding out whether this was a traffic accident or a deliberate attack.

Marrack Goulding, the UN under secretary general, will today wind up his tour of the territories, aimed at examining the situation. He is scheduled to meet with Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of activities in the territories, prior to drafting his report. Security sources have said that with all due respect to Goulding, his visit to the refugee camps did not contribute to restoring calm. The case in point, they maintain, is the disturbances that erupted after he toured Rafah last week, and Balatah yesterday. [end recording]

4 Gazans Appeal Deportations

TA170840 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] This morning, the four Gazans who had been issued deportation orders appealed to the High Court of Justice against the IDF commander in the Gaza Strip. They are seeking an interim injunction that would forbid the IDF from expelling them until a final decision on their appeal is made, and an interim injunction instructing the commander to show cause why he will not rescind the expulsion orders against the appellants and refrain from deporting them outside the Gaza Strip.

Our legal affairs correspondent 'Oz Shelah reports that in their appeal, presented by Attorney Felicia Langer, the four contend that the deliberations of the consultative committee on their case were inappropriate and that a large part of the incriminating material against them was not properly presented. They furthermore argue that they are not guilty of the charges submitted against them, namely maintaining constant contact with Fatah activists, maintaining contacts with the Islamic Jihad, throwing stones, and inciting violence.

Court Forbids Expulsions

TA171008 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Supreme Court Justice Shlomo Levin has issued an interim injunction forbidding the expulsion, at this stage, of the four Gaza Strip inhabitants against whom deportation orders had been issued. The justice's injunction forbids their expulsion before a final decision on their case is made.

3 Arabs Detained for Peace Day

TA170938 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] The censorship on the following report was lifted this morning: Three inhabitants of the Western Galilee Arab village of 'Arraba were detained on suspicion of planning to attack police personnel during peace day [1 January] in the Arab villages. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz reports that this morning a judge permitted the publication of the three Arabs' arrest. They are also suspected of staging some of the riots, inciting locals in the villages, and flying two PLO flags during peace day.

Mordekhay, Gaza Leaders Confer

TA171201 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1149 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Quiet prevailed in the Gaza Strip today. Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, the commander of the Southern Command, this morning conferred with notables from the Al-Nusayrat, Al-Burayj, and Dayr al-Balah refugee camps. In that meeting, the notables requested easier curfew conditions, but were told that the curfews will be lifted only when quiet prevails. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports from the Gaza Strip:

Quiet prevailed today in the Gaza Strip as well. Approximately 200,000 refugees in eight refugee camps are currently under curfew. UNRWA staff were allowed to deliver food to several refugee camps this morning. Near the Al-Burayj refugee camp, UNRWA employees waited, complaining that they were not allowed to supply medication and food to the inhabitants of the camp. [passage omitted]

IDF soldiers in armored personnel carriers are deployed at the entrance to the refugee camp. According to the commander of the unit, Lieutenant Colonel Avi, the UNRWA complaints are unfounded. [passage omitted]

This morning, graffiti was painted in the Al-Burayj camp, and barricades were erected. An IDF unit detained one of the violators of the curfew. The inhabitants of the camp were asked to clear the roads. In most of the camps we toured, the curfew was lifted for a while to allow the inhabitants to be provided with food. [passage omitted]

Temple Mount Events Recounted

TA171221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1153 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev's discussion of the 15 January Temple Mount events.

[Begin recording] [Bar-Lev] As for the incident itself, as reported, there was serious rioting on the Temple Mount. After the prayers, several hundred youths gathered, burned the Israeli flag and the U.S flag, flew PLO flags, and then a single tear gas grenade was thrown to disperse them. Some of them indeed went away. Others, however, simply attacked the police station and the (Mahkamah) building, which is a Border Police base, as well as Mughrabi Gate, where a police unit was deployed. It was necessary to use several tear gas grenades to disperse them. Tear gas was on no occasion used inside the mosque or inside any other structure.

The mob managed to capture one of the policemen, drag him into the mosque, beat him up and cause serious injuries to him. He somehow extricated himself from that situation by firing several shots in the air from his pistol.

[Ben-'Ami] Inside the mosque?

[Bar-Lev] Yes, because he was in real danger to his life. The man is seriously wounded, suffering from a broken jaw, broken teeth, an arm either broken or sprained, and from broken ribs. At any rate, after he fired several bullets in the air, the mob began to disperse and he managed to roll himself outside the building. Meanwhile, they snatched his pistol from him. After that, the police closed off the four entrances to the Al-Aqsa Mosque and following coordination with the deputy Mufti, carried out a bodysearch on each individual who came out of the mosque. In the course of these searches, when they tried to open a certain door, they found out that it was blocked. That was where the pistol was found. [end recording]

Judaea, Samaria Curfews Lifted

TA171910 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Curfews are now being lifted from the refugee camps in Judaea and Samaria, except for the town of Salfit. In the next few days the curfews imposed on the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip will apparently be alleviated.

Meanwhile, AL-FAJR editor Hanna Sinyurah and some of his colleagues have decided to stage demonstrative acts of civil disobedience in the next few days, such as burning Israeli identity cards. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that Sinyurah and his colleagues have in the last 2 days decided not to try to call news conferences on this issue but rather to initiate action.

Curfews Remain in Gaza 18 Jan

TA180525 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Curfews are still in force in parts of Gaza. All in all about 200,000 Gazans are under curfew. The Army has made arrangements to enable a steady supply of food. UNRWA officials are being allowed into the camps to distribute food and medicine.

In Judaea and Samaria curfews on all the refugee camps have been lifted. The only curfew there is on the village of Salfit in Samaria.

A riot broke out yesterday at a prison camp on the Gaza coast following a rumor about prisoners' food being poisoned. A military source told the ITIM news agency that camp guards had to use force to restore order. A doctor who checked the food found there was no basis to the poison charges and the two prisoners who spread the rumor were removed to solitary confinement.

Strikes in E. Jerusalem, Gaza

TA181034 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] There is a full commercial strike in East Jerusalem today after the shops which were opened this morning were closed again. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports on a series of criminal acts in East Jerusalem. The shop of a money changer in Salah al-Din St was burned. Last night the car of a notable from the Al-Tur neighborhood was set on fire and the tires of three cars belonging to residents of Jabal Mukabar, near the Government House, were sabotaged.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that calm is prevailing in the Gaza Strip and approximately half of the workers left for work in Israel. The inhabitants of the refugee camps under curfew did not receive exit permits for work.

In the city of Gaza there is a partial commercial strike. Food shops are tentatively opened and part of the market is open. On the roadsides there are venders selling vegetables, fruits, and cigarettes. For the first time since the disturbances started local policemen on horseback are preserving order.

Tank Crews Attacked in Hebron

TA181720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The crews of three Israeli tanks were attacked this afternoon near the village of Idnah west of Hebron. Local residents threw stones while advancing toward them menacingly. A member of the crew of one of the tanks was slightly grazed. Our correspondents Moti Amir and Alan Ben-'Ami report that the tank crews were attacked while driving slowly and carefully out of a training area in order not to harm people around them.

The driver of an Israeli truck complained to the police that Arab youths stopped him near the village of Idnah in the Hebron District and wanted to hit him. He beat them with a dull object in his possession and managed to leave the area. The security forces are examining the complaint.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that quiet generally prevailed in Judaea and Samaria today, except for a few cases of throwing stones and erecting roadblocks. Commercial life proceeded as usual in most towns.

Leaflets Incite Strikes

TA181953 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Pro-PLO circles are trying to bring about a strike tomorrow, a strike by the Arab transport companies, a continuation of the strike in East Jerusalem, a strike in Judaea and Samaria and workers' abstaining from work in Israel. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that a small number of leaflets in this spirit were distributed by the so-called national institutions. It seems that these elements are aiming to prevent the continuation of relative calm in Judaea and Samaria, and this is why they also want to declare next Friday as a day of demonstrations, a day of the victims. One of the leaflets says that Israel finds itself isolated, and this is therefore the right time to keep up the uprising.

Our correspondent Victor Nahmias reports that despite lifting the curfew in Judaea, only a few incidents of throwing stones and building roadblocks were recorded today. A resident of the Balatah refugee camp who was wounded about 6 weeks ago died of her wounds today. She was 52 years old. The village of Salfit is still under curfew.

Peace Day Detentions Continue

TA182029 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] A followup committee made up of Knesset members and heads of Arab local councils has complained that the police are continuing to detain additional people in connection with the disturbances which took place on peace day. Our correspondent reports that according to the followup committee, 125 suspects have either been detained or interrogated so far, 63 of them are Nazareth residents and the remaining are residents of the Triangle, the Galilee, Yafo, and Lod. ‘Akko, Haifa, and Hadera courts have issued orders against 14 of them, instructing that they remain under detention until the end of legal proceedings.

Curfew on ‘Askar, Balatah

TA182115 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed this evening on the old ‘Askar refugee camp as well as the Balatah refugee camp in the Nabulus area. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that youths tried to attack the police station in the ‘Askar camp, while in Balatah disturbances and a demonstration took place due to the death of a woman resident of the camp. According to the residents, the woman died of wounds she sustained in the course of disturbances a few weeks ago. Security sources say, however, that the woman died of a heart attack and that her death has nothing to do with incidents in the territories.

Attacks on Jewish transportation continued this evening. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an Egged bus which was traveling near Har Gilo. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused. Two buses which returned workers from their places of employment in Israel were stoned near the village of Idnah in the Hebron area. The buses were damaged but nobody was hurt.

Strike in E. Jerusalem

TA190710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] A commercial strike is under way this morning in the Arab neighborhoods outside the walls of the Old City in Jerusalem, although a few food shops have been opened. A commercial strike is also under way in Qalandiyah, north of Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfew on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus has been lifted. The curfews on the ‘Askar refugee camp and on the town of Salfit remain in effect.

Shops Forced Open in Ramallah

TA191013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] This morning security forces opened many Ramallah shops whose owners wanted to participate in the commercial strike. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that large Army forces are present in the town. Shops on the main road have been opened, but those on side streets remained closed. Merchants in Ramallah said they closed their shops in acquiescence to the call of what is termed the nationalist bodies. Our correspondent notes that youths walked around the streets of Ramallah encouraging the merchants to strike.

Shomron Comments on Infiltrations, Terrorism

TA151417 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 15 Jan 88 p A2

[ITIM report]

[Excerpts] "The four deportees will not return to Israel because we will not let them," Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron said last night in response to questions presented by the Press Club at Tel Aviv's Bet Sokolov. [passage omitted]

Reviewing the situation along the borders, the chief of staff noted that at the moment no border is secure. He mentioned the penetration of the three terrorists from Jordan and their capture near Kibbutz Ma‘oz Hayyim, and revealed that the IDF knows of additional terrorist squads organizing along that border.

"The Jordanian border is not hermetically sealed although the Jordanians are not interested in further penetrations from their territory."

The Egyptian border can likewise not be regarded as hermetically sealed because of the infiltrations and the incidents of shooting at IDF soldiers.

He commended the Shin Bet's operations in the territories and recalled that last year, approximately 90 percent of the terrorist squads in the territories were captured, often before they were able to carry out their plans. [passage omitted]

At the outset of his speech, the chief of staff reviewed terrorist activity in 1987 compared with 1986.

In 1986 there were 920 terrorist attempts to cross the security border in the north. Of them, 98 attempts to infiltrate into Israel were successful. This figure includes the Katyusha attacks on the Israeli border as well. In 1987 there were 604 infiltration attempts, of which in 43 the terrorists got as far as the Israeli border. In 1986, some 125 terrorists were killed in the north, while in 1987—250. Navy operations resulted in 1986 in 50 terrorists killed, and in 1987—75.

Gen Shomron said that the intelligence information and assessments prevailing in the IDF do not indicate that Syria will launch a war in the foreseeable future, but he emphasized that the entire decision-making apparatus in that country depends on President al-Asad, making it difficult to predict the reaction of a mechanism operating without checks and balances.

He said that the Syrians are busy outfitting their missiles with chemical warheads, which they regard as an attempt to reach strategic parity with Israel, which they believe is already equipped with nonconventional weapons. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Visit by Egypt's Husni Mubarak

Arrives in Aqaba 16 Jan

JN161248 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Official talks between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Husni Mubarak of Egypt began this afternoon at the Royal Palace in Aqaba. His Excellency President Mubarak arrived at Aqaba Airport at noon today on a brief working visit to Jordan.

His Majesty King Husayn led the welcoming party. The Egyptian president was also greeted by Prime Minister Zayd al- Rifa'i; Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah; Chief Chamberlain Ra'd ibn Zayd; Staff Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; and Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri, as well as by senior officials of the Aqaba District and the Egyptian ambassador in Amman.

President Mubarak's delegation is comprised of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr 'Atif Muhammad 'Ubayd, minister of Cabinet affairs and state minister for administrative development; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian and Egyptian delegations met to review bilateral ties and cooperation.

Husayn on Mubarak Visit

JN161950 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Talks were held at the Royal Palace in Aqaba this afternoon between His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. [passage omitted]

Answering questions posed by journalists accompanying his excellency, the guest president, prior to his departure from Aqaba Airport, His Majesty King Husayn said:

[Begin recording] [First unidentified reporter] In a recent visit we asked Your Majesty about your view of Arab solidarity in the coming phase. Your majesty kindly said something good and added that the Arabs had begun to put their feet on the right path. Today we want to find out once again Your Majesty's opinion on the strides Arab solidarity has made.

[King Husayn] Praise be to God, we have made long strides despite the fact that I think we are still at the beginning of the road. All of us are dutybound to proceed on the road we have chosen for ourselves and our Arab nation. We should also be careful, alert, and vigilant so that our strides will not stumble in coming phases or in the confrontation of challenges and dangers.

Praise be to God, I am optimistic and determined—I think the Arab brothers join me in this regard—to do our utmost to safeguard our nation's march toward its objectives and goals.

[Second unidentified reporter] Your Majesty, what are the results of your recent visit to a foreign country?

[King Husayn] My recent visit was to the Soviet Union. Praise be to God, it was an extremely successful visit and I was happy and satisfied with all of its results.

I sensed that there is [in the Soviet Union] an aware, dynamic, active, and informed leadership which is ready to make a great contribution to the achievement of peace and stability in this part of the world.

[Third unidentified reporter] Was there an agreement to diversify sources of weapons?

[King Husayn] This has already taken place. With regard to the Jordanian Armed Forces, weapons become Jordanian once they arrive here. In the past, weapons were mainly American, but in recent years they have become West European, Soviet, and Chinese.

[Fourth unidentified reporter] Your Majesty, is there anything new in the Palestinian question?

[King Husayn] What is new in the Palestinian question is, first, that there is interest in this question on an international level. I am certain that both here and on the international level there is great interest in what is taking place these days and in the reports about the uprising in the occupied territories by the people—our kinfolk—there whether in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip in the face of occupation and its practices over the past 20 years. This uprising is effective in the full sense of the word.

[Fifth unidentified reporter] Your Majesty, do you expect an end to the Iraq-Iran war soon? What is the Syrian stand following your efforts to bring [Syrian] and Iraqi viewpoints closer?

[King Husayn] I have great hope that this war will end. I believe it will end once Iran feels that the Arab nation has a unified stand and that Iran will not win this war. Naturally, neither party will win this war.

I hope this war will stop at a certain limit, that the forces return to the international border, and that relations will be based on mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs in the interests of all concerned parties. A unified Arab stand will contribute to ending the war.

As for Syrian-Iraqi relations, Baghdad's doors are open to Damascus and vice versa. I hope dialogue will continue between the brothers to promote relations to the level at which they should be.

[Sixth unidentified reporter] Your Majesty and President Mubarak have been accustomed to holding successive meetings every now and then. What can we say about today's meeting?

[King Husayn] Thanks to his excellency my great brother, I was happy at his honoring Jordan and me personally by making this visit. He is in his second homeland and he is a dear brother. I am very happy because I have seen him at the end of his first tour of his greater Arab homeland. Praise be to God, this tour has been very successful, just as I have expected.

As for my visits to the kinfolk and brothers, I was acquainted with the fact that they were looking forward to the opportunity his excellency gave to everyone to meet with him. Praise be to God, the march, objectives, goals, and fate are the same.

[Seventh unidentified reporter] Through Your Majesty's close follow-up of the occupied territories' situation in the wake of the uprising, do you expect Israeli policy to change following this uprising, whether the Labor Party assumes power or the Likud continues its rule?

[King Husayn] I cannot say what will happen. However, the uprising is continuing in all the occupied territories. This uprising is an internal Arab action against the occupation's practices, which have been pursued for many years. It will inevitably have effects not only on Israel but also on the whole region and the entire world. [end recording]

His Majesty King Husayn led those who received and saw off his excellency at Aqaba Airport. [passage omitted]

Leaves Aqaba 16 Jan

JN161612 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Aqaba—His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Aqaba today following a short working visit, during which he held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on developments in the occupied Arab territories in light of our people's all-encompassing uprising against the occupation forces.

The talks also dealt with the situation in the Arabian Gulf and the results of President Mubarak's tour of the Gulf states and his talks with their leaders. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim Takes Husayn Letter to Saudi Arabia

JN161304 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim left Amman at noon today for Riyadh to give a letter to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, from His Majesty King Husayn. The letter concerns relations between the sisterly countries and current Arab developments.

Fadlallah Comments on State of Hostages

NC170801 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Hizballah's spiritual leader, has reiterated to the British newspaper SUNDAY EXPRESS that there is no hope that Terry Waite or any of the other hostages will be released before the U.S. presidential elctions. He added: Only when Ronald Reagan has left the White House will we even begin to consider discussing terms for freeing Terry Waite and the other hostages. He pointed out that Waite's kidnappers are thus seeking to humilate Reagan, whom they hate more than they hated Jimmy Carter.

In his statement, Fadlallah said that Waite's kidnappers had lured him to a private clinic in West Beirut run by Dr 'Adnan Muruwwa. They asked him why he had failed to honor his promise to obtain the freedom of 17 Shi'ites detained in Kuwait in return for the release of U.S. hostages Terry Anderson and Thomas Sutherland. Fadlallah noted that Waite was detained in the name of Jihad because he had been unable to convince anyone that he was not working for U.S. intelligence.

Fadlallah affirmed that Waite and the other hostages are being well-treated. He described reports that he is in poor health as untrue. According to the SUNDAY EXPRESS, Fadlallah, who admitted that he is close to Waite's kidnappers, agreed to speak for the first time about the British hostage with the approval of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

Denies Making Remarks

NC171035 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizballah, has denied remarks attributed to him by the British newspaper SUNDAY EXPRESS; namely, that he said that the release of Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite will take place only after the end U.S. President Ronald Reagan's term of office.

A statement issued by Fadlallah's office said: The report is fabricated and false.

[Paris AFP in English in a similar report at 0937 GMT on 17 January adds: "'Shaykh Fadlallah has not granted an interview or made statements by telephone to the SUNDAY EXPRESS and the report published (Sunday) by this newspaper is false,' a statement issued by his office said. 'It is a despicable attempt at disinformation,' the statement added."]

Anniversary of Waite Kidnapping Noted

NC171524 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] It is very likely that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite will be the last hostage currently being held in Lebanon to be released. This week marks the 1st anniversary of Waite's kidnapping.

Western diplomats and a highly placed source who is cognizant of the developments in Waite's case have told REUTER that the possibility for Waite's early release appears to be bleak because of the British Government's refusal to bargain and because of Waite's importance in the view of his kidnappers.

UK Envoy Says Waite Alive, Location Unknown

NC190638 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] British Ambassador to Lebanon John Gray has said that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who disappeared in Beirut last year, is still alive. He added that he is in contact with people who have links with the kidnappers and who can help secure Waite's release. He stressed, however, that the British Government has nothing to offer the kidnappers and that it has not received any definite information on his whereabouts.

Gray also declared that no transactions will be made with terrorists, adding that they have to realize that there is no use in holding Terry Waite.

Negotiations for FRG's Cordes at 'Standstill'

NC161752 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Citing well-informed sources, the AL-SHIRA' magazine has reported that the secret negotiations taking place to secure the release of FRG hostage Rudolf Cordes have come to a standstill. The magazine added that the kidnappers are waiting for the outcome of the ongoing trial in West Germany of Lebanese citizen 'Abbas Hamadah.

Talks To Free Cordes 'Failed'

NC171544 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1520 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] West German hostage Rudolph Cordes has begun his 2d year of captivity in Lebanon. REUTER has quoted a source from an Islamic militia as saying that recent negotiations to secure his release failed when Iran asked for weapons, chemical materials, and spare parts. The same source said that the transaction would have included Bonn's release of Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, a $3 million ransom, and proof that the detainees in Kuwait are still alive.

French 'Mediator' on Release of 2 Girls

LD182027 Kuwait KUNA in English 1741 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Beirut, Jan 18 (KUNA)—A French mediator was quoted Monday that the eight Europeans who were abducted from aboard a yacht off the occupied Gaza coasts last Nov 8 by a Palestinian group are being detained in south Lebanon.

Lucien Bitterlin, chairman of the French-Arab Solidarity Association told weekly AL-'USBU AL-'ARABI Monday, that two young French girls along with six adults are being held in south Lebanon by the Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna]-led Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC).

The FRC had announced last Nov 8 that it detained a yacht off the Gaza coasts on suspicion of espionage for the Israeli intelligence service (Mossad).

Bitterlin arrived here Jan 2 at the invitation of the FRC to look into the release of the two girls, Marie-Laure Valente, 5, and her sister Virginie, 6.

The French mediator indicated that he met with Abu Nidal three years ago, in accordance with a wish of an Arab minister in an Arab capital.

Bitterlin said that the release of the girls will take place before the end of this month, adding, "That's what I am working for right now."

Deportees Begin 'Sit-In' at Red Cross Offices

NC151529 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Four Palestinian deportees began an indefinite sit-in at the offices of the International Red Cross Commission in Al-Biqa' today to protest Israel's arbitrary decision to deport them from their homeland. In a statement addressed to the International Red Cross Commission, the four said that they will make the Red Cross offices their headquarters until their problem is resolved.

Red Cross Statement Cited

NC171537 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] The International Red Cross Commission issued a statement today saying that the four Palestinians deported from Israel are determined to continue their sit-in in the Ksarah area of Al-Biqa'. The statement added that the International Red Cross Commission has noted the four Palestinians' determination to continue to reside in one room of the commission's offices in Ksarah until Israel rescinds the measure it took against them and they are able to return to their homeland.

All South Crossings But Zummarayya Reopened

NC181248 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] According to reports from the south, the Israeli forces have reopened all the crossings to the border zone, except for the Zummarayya crossing in the eastern sector, where they deported the four Palestinians from Israel.

Birri Meets Palestinians; 'To End' Camps War

NC161456 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri met with a delegation representing the various Palestinian factions today. Following the meeting, Birri said: To bless the uprising in the occupied territories and to express our deep appreciation, we held a meeting with the brothers in the Palestinian factions. We informed the brother Palestinians of the Amal Movement's decision to end the so-called camps war and to restore unity between the Lebanese and the Palestinians; in other words, we informed the brothers of our resumption of the initiative we declared on the anniversary of Imam al-Sadr. We leave it to the Palestinian people to uphold their commitments under the agreement.

Responding to a question, Birri asserted: There is a joint committee that follows up procedural matters on the ground. No unilateral action will be allowed from now on; only joint Lebanese-Palestinian-Syrian action.

For his part, Mamduh Nawfal [not further identified] said: As representatives of the inhabitants of the camps and the revolution's forces, we met today with the brothers in the Amal Movement Command. At this meeting, we reviewed the conditions under which our people are living. Mr Birri informed the delegation about the Amal Movement's historic decision to resume the initiative [to end the camps war]. The Amal Movement decided to end its military presence around the camps and to lift the siege on the Shatila camp and other camps for good. The Amal Movement has decided to let the Palestinian people deal with the situation east of Sidon.

For our part, we stressed that as a result of this step by the Amal Movement, we reject the presence of any Palestinian outside the camps. We also emphasized our concern and adherence to the initiative and to push it forward. We pointed out that this great step lays a strong foundation for good relations [between the two sides]. The brothers in the Amal Movement stressed their concern to quickly eliminate any vestiges of the camps war so that we may face the common enemy together.

We appreciate and thank Mr Birri for the noble stand he has taken. We also thank him for the great stand he expressed with regard to the uprising. Mr Birri stressed to us the need to mobilize Lebanese potential in support of the uprising.

Abu Fadi Hammad [not further identified] said: Brother Birri's step comes within the framework of confirming the alliance between the Lebanese and Palestinian people, in preparation for restoring real cohesion between them. We highly appreciate Birri's step and view it as a gift to the Palestinian people for their uprising in the occupied territories. In the name of our people, we affirm our concern to maintain strong relations with the Amal Movement. We will be loyal to those who have made great sacrifices. We will work seriously and earnestly to repair and to reconstruct the camps and to remove all traces of this dirty war.

PFLP Welcomes Initiative

NC161538 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] A PFLP spokesman has welcomed Minister Birri's initiative and called for the formation of joint committees from the Amal Movement, the Palestinian groups, and the Syrian observers to implement Birri's initiative and to lift the military siege of the camps once and for all.

Amal-Palestinian Fighting; Israeli Overflights

NC181957 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] According to security reports from the south, fighting involving the use of machineguns is currently raging between Amal and Palestinian gunmen along the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and Mar Ilyas combat lines. The fighting has broken out at a time when Nabih Birri has announced his decision to lift the siege on the Palestinian camps.

In another development, Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon this evening, dropping flares.

Israeli Air Reconnaissance Noted 19 Jan

NC190824 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes broke the sound barrier at approximately 0955 while flying reconnaissance sorties over Lebanese areas.

Army Helicopter Crashes Into Sea; Search Noted

NC161117 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1102 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] A Lebanese Army helicopter crashed shortly after 1200 today. According to security sources, the helicopter crashed into the sea while flying off the Al-'Uqaybah-al-Buwar coast. The sources added that five helicopters took off from the Adma airbase, heading for the area. First aid and civil defense teams rushed to the scene in an attempt to save the pilot and his co-pilot. The same sources said that naval units are participating in the search and that distress calls were monitored after the crash.

Helicopter Explosion Kills 2

NC161242 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Excerpt] There was an explosion on board a Lebanese Air Force Puma helicopter over the Al-Buwar area at 1215 today, resulting in the deaths of Captain George Sadaqah, the helicopter's pilot, and his co-pilot Sergeant Technician John Qazzi. The cause of the explosion is not yet known. [passage omitted]

Syrians Burn Liberation Battalion Leader's Home

NC170919 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Syrian intelligence personnel and gunmen of the Tripoli resistance led by Tariq Fakhr al-Din have burned down the house of Shaykh Kan'an Naji, leader of the Liberation Battalion. The Liberation Battalion has claimed several attacks against the Syrian occupation army in West Beirut and the north.

Group Claims Attacks on Syrian Forces 17 Jan

NC171017 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for a hand grenade and machinegun attack on a Syrian occupation forces' position in Al-Bahsas at the southern entrance to Tripoli at 0400 today. It has also claimed responsibility for ambushing a Syrian military truck on the Tall Hayat Road in 'Akkar. The unit fired RPG's at the truck, damaging it and killing or wounding the Syrian soldiers inside it.

Resistance Clashes With Israeli Force in South

NC181603 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] According to information provided by the Amal Movement, an Israeli force advanced to Wadi al-Saluqi at noon today and began a wide-scale search of the area. One of the Lebanese Resistance-Amal groups confronted the Israeli force and a clash ensued. Soon afterward, the enemy artillery positioned near Qabrikha bombarded Qabrikha and the Al-Thamiriyah-Majdal Silm-Qabrikha triangle until 1430. The road there is closed as a result of the shelling.

Meanwhile, helicopters raked the Qadi al-Saluqi, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha, and Bani Hayyan areas with heavy-caliber machineguns at 1440.

Released Palestinian Alleges Israeli Torture

NC151915 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Palestinian struggler Riyad Mustafa Ahmad 'Uthman, who was released by Israeli authorities and arrived in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp at night, told our correspondent in the south that he belongs to Fatah. He said he was arrested, along with 50 others, by the Israeli Navy aboard a boat bound for Lebanon from Cyprus on 6 February 1987. He was taken to Palestine, where he was tried periodically. He was then moved to several prisons, including Ashqelon, 'Atlit, and Ramla.

'Uthman said he was severely tortured during his imprisonment, noting that the charge against him was his desire to return to Lebanon, to Sidon in particular, so that he could reestablish military bases for Fatah in Sidon to be used for striking at Israeli military targets. He added that during his imprisonment he saw many Lebanese and Palestinian detainees. He said that he is carrying verbal messages from some of them to their relatives. He also said that the occupation forces transported him to Al-Naqurah, where a Red Cross vehicle picked him up and took him to Sidon.

FRG's Genscher Meets Officials, Holds Talks

Al-Shar' Comments Reported

JN160617 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday made a statement to Arab and foreign reporters at Damascus International Airport on the occasion of the visit to Syria by FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

Al-Shar' affirmed in his statement that Genscher's visit is important for two reasons: First, the importance of the FRG within the EC and the delicate role it played in achieving international relaxation between East and West; and second, the FRG chairs the EC countries at this stage. Thus, Genscher can speak in the name of his colleagues in the EC countries on tackling the critical issues in the region, particularly the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war.

Al-Shar' added: The talks to be held between the Syrian Arab and FRG sides will be important in finding common denominators between the two countries in reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Faruq Al-Shar' said Syria considers the Arab-Israeli conflict the top priority over all regional issues. The popular uprising inside the occupied territory has proven the soundness of this view, he added. The uprising clearly reflects the policy of coercion, injustice, and racism practiced by Israel against the Arabs for many decades. The Syrian minister stressed Europe should adopt clear and definite stands on the repressive and expansionist Israeli policy.

Answering a question on the European stand, Al-Shar' said: Syria has always believed Europe has an important role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He added: During our talks with Genscher we will concentrate on bilateral relations between the FRG and Syria as well as between the EC and Syria.

On the ongoing efforts to end tension in the Gulf, Al-Shar' said: There is a positive atmosphere. We do not want to deal with the details at this stage because achieving postive results is what is important in this respect.

EC Policy, Hostages Discussed

LD151722 Hamburg DPA in German 1525 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Damascus (DPA)—Today during intensive talks with the Syrian Government, Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher discussed, among other things, EC policy. For Syria this involves considerable sums in development aid, which have thus far not been approved by the EC on the grounds of a British objection. The last payment amounted to approximately DM200 million. Genscher, as current chairman of the EC Council, promised to push Britain for a resumption of the payments during the half-year of Germany's presidency. At the start of Genscher's talks Syrian Government officials stressed their strong interest in better relations with the EC.

Genscher today started his 2 days of talks in his "bilateral capacity" as German foreign minister, with his counterpart, Faruq al-Shar'. In addition to the EC problem, the situations in the Gulf war and in the Israeli occupied territories were high on the agenda. Furthermore, the Syrians had prepared themselves thoroughly for talks about Rudolf Cordes, the German held in captivity as a hostage in Lebanon by radical Muslim groups. Delegation circles were not expecting immediate progress.

It was reported, however, that Genscher intends to press for further Syrian efforts in Tehran, where the decisive influence on Cordes' kidnappers is still thought to lie. With his talks in Syria, Genscher is concluding an extensive exploratory tour which began at the end of 1987 in Saudi Arabia. Next week Genscher is adding discussions in Israel.

In the political talks, which Genscher concludes on Saturday with a meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad, the federal foreign minister is mainly seeking clarity about the extent to which Syria is able to exert a moderating influence in Tehran. In a talk with journalists, Genscher ascribed a key role to the Syrians in resolving conflicts. [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministers Hold Talks

JN151923 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] This evening official talks were held at the Foreign Ministry between the Syrian Arab side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the FRG delegation led by Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher. Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, attended the talks.

Also present on the Syrian Arab side were Yusuf Shakir, assistant foreign minister; Sulayman Haddad, Syria's ambassador to Bonn; Dr 'Abd al-Karim Sa'ud, Economic Department head; 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, Information Department head; Hisham Kahhalah, Western Europe Department head; and Walid al-Mu'allim; special offices department head.

On the FRG side the talks were attended by Dr (Reichard), FRG ambassador to Damascus; Dr (Reinhard Schlagenvide), political department head at the Foreign Ministry; (Wilgrid Rischester), Middle Eastern Department head at the Foreign Ministry; (Helmut Bofom), assistant protocol chief; and (Heinrich Huston), adviser at the Foreign Ministry's press section.

Talks ranged over ways to promote relations between Syria and the FRG in various spheres, the Mideast situation, the popular uprising against Israeli authorities in the occupied Arab land, and Arab Gulf developments. The FRG minister noted the outstanding Syrian role played by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in the interests of the security and stability of the region. He outlined his country's position calling for a UN-sponsored international Mideast conference to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

The FRG minister pointed to his country's support for self-determination for the Palestinian Arab people and the need for Israel to abide by UN Security Council resolutions, particularly Resolution No 607 on the protection of the rights of population under occupation. He stressed his country's interest in and support for Syria's efforts on behalf of removing Gulf tension and a negotiated end to the problem between the region's states.

For his part, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' underscored the FRG's role within the EC and the importance of a European contribution to Mideast peace, given the interdependence of stability and security in this region and in Europe. The minister explained the significance of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied land, marking a watershed in the ongoing struggle to liberate it from Israeli occupation. Al-Shar' went on to explain Syria's efforts to remove Gulf tension.

'Friendly Atmosphere' Noted

LD152337 Hamburg DPA in German 2305 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Damascus (DPA)—The Syrian Government made clear in intensive talks with Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Damascus on Friday that it counts on Bonn as a political interlocutor for political solutions in the Middle East. Genscher, who first negotiated with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and who will be received on Saturday by State President Hafiz al-Asad, met, contrary to expectations, with other members of the Syrian Government during the night from Friday to Saturday.

According to the Syrian news agency, the topics were expanded to include economic relations. Among the subjects were above all the situation in the Gulf and the "uprisings" by Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

In an extraordinarily friendly atmosphere, Genscher thanked the Syrian Government for its efforts concerning the release of Rudolf Cordes and expressed the Federal Government's hope that these efforts may continue so the hostage, who has been held in Lebanon for 1 year, may be released. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Juergen Chrobog said that the federal foreign minister stressed the need to counter terrorism everywhere in the world. [passage omitted]

Meets Khaddam, Al-Zu'bi

JN161148 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] In Damascus, Vice President 'Abd Al-Halim Khaddam received at 0930 today FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Syria's Ambassador in Bonn Sulayman Haddad and the FRG's ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the international situation, developments in the region, and relations between Syria and the FRG.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received the FRG Foreign Minsiter earlier at 0830. The meeting was attended by Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Sulayman Haddad, Syria's ambassador in Bonn; the FRG ambassador in Damascus; and Genscher's accompanying delegation.

After welcoming Genscher, the prime minister reviewed economic and social progress achieved in Syria and plans for following up economic and social development.

Genscher expressed his country's appreciation of Syria's role and importance in the region. He stressed the need for promoting ties between the two countries in their mutual interest.

Economic, trade, scientific, and cultural relations were also reviewed. The two countries expressed the desire to diversify and promote these relations in all fields.

Received by Al-Asad

JN161443 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad at noon today received FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher and his delegation. Present at the meeting were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Syria's ambassador to Bonn, Sulayman Haddad; and the FRG ambassador in Damascus. In a friendly atmosphere, they discussed recent international developments, the Mideast, the Gulf, Lebanon, and bilateral relations and cooperation.

Genscher voiced the thanks of the FRG Government for Syria's efforts to obtain the freedom of hostages. The minister also expressed appreciation for Syria's important and positive role in the Mideast and in furthering the cause of peace and security in the Gulf around the world.

His excellency the president pointed to the role that the FRG and EC nations can play toward establishing Mideast peace and their potential contributions to solving regional and world problems.

Genscher conveyed to his excellency the president greetings from President Richard von Weizsaecker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl. President al-Asad asked Genscher to convey his greetings to the FRG leaders.

Afghanistan

Soviets Draw Up 'Emergency Evacuation' Plans
BK181512 Hong Kong AFP in English 1458 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 18 (AFP)—The Soviet authorities have drawn up a contingency plan and issued special cards to their supporters in Kabul to be used in case of emergency evacuation, resistance sources said Monday.

The cards, printed in Russian and Farsi [as received] with a special embossed stamp, have maps attached indicating designated assembly points in case of emergency, the sources said.

The resistance sources, who provided a copy of the card to AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE, said these "entry permits" have been secretly distributed to high-ranking Afghans serving in the administration or the country's Armed Forces.

Similar cards have also been issued to ranking officials of both the Khalqi (Masses) and Parchami (Flag) factions in the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), the sources said.

The authorities have designated Kabul's Amani College and Soviet Friendship House as the two assembly points in the capital.

The card reads: "Comrade ... (name), is allowed to enter the assigned premises with his family in case of emergency. The holder can carry only a light hand bag not exceeding 10 kilograms (22 pounds) weight ... But can not carry arms or foodstuffs."

The document was first seized by the Hezb-e Eslami rebel group led by Muhammad Yunis Khalis who is also chief of the seven-group mujahidin alliance.

Mr. Khalis said the plan to designate collection points for their "supporters and collaborators" proved that "the Russians are set to flee."

Meanwhile, an independent news agency, PAKISTAN PRESS INTERNATIONAL (PPI), said at least 60 families of senior Khalqi and Parchami officials have already been moved to the Soviet Union.

The heads of these families were still in Kabul, the news agency added.

The agency said India had also agreed to provide asylum to some 1,500 members of the Afghan Communist Party.

There was no immediate confirmation of the PPI report.

Afghan President Najibullah held talks with Premier Rajiv Gandhi when he visited India on December 24 en route to Vietnam and Cambodia. On his way back to Kabul he made a second stopover in New Delhi earlier this month.

India is one of the few non-aligned countries which has avoided open criticism of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, observers recalled.

According to Western estimates there are about 200,000 PDPA members and supporters, including some 10,000 activists serving in KHAD, Kabul's secret service modelled on the Soviet Union's KGB.

Mr. Khalis, however, said he believed there were no more than 6,000 committed communists in Afghanistan and "the Soviets can take them" along when they withdrawal.

He has already announced a mujahidin amnesty for those Afghan Communist Party members who supported the regime under compulsion and wanted to repent.

They would be pardoned if they pledged their opposition to the present regime in Kabul, Mr. Khalis said in a statement on the eighth anniversary of the Soviet intervention in December.

UN Envoy in Pakistan for Talks With Mujahidin
BK180342 Hong Kong AFP in English 0320 GMT 18 Jan 88

[By Sami Zubeiri]

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 18 (AFP)—The United Nations' special envoy on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, begins another round of visits here Wednesday [20 January] as Pakistan struggles to convince the hardline mujahidin to accept power-sharing in Kabul.

His mission here and in the Afghan capital comes after Moscow said it would withdraw its troops from Afghanistan this year if Washington stops supporting the rebels.

Observers said it would be the first time Mr. Cordovez has held official talks with the Pakistan-based Afghan resistance.

He has been briefed by Washington and Moscow and has reportedly noted a "convergence of intentions" on ending the eight-year conflict.

The success of Mr. Cordovez's talks would lead to the convening of the next round of talks in Geneva in late February, sources here said.

"The outstanding issues have already been identified," the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN quoted him as saying in a recent interview. "But what is important before returning to Geneva is to reach certain understandings as to how to handle those issues on the basis of policy decisions that are reported to have been taken" by the parties involved.

Mr. Cordovez's mission, which began in April 1982, has mainly dealt with external aspects of the Afghan issue.

He has obtained U.S. and Soviet guarantees against future intervention in Afghanistan and the return of some five million Afghan refugees from Iran and Pakistan.

Mujahidin groups have rejected Afghan President Najibullah's offer to form a coalition with the current Kabul regime and to accept a unilateral ceasefire.

The U.N. envoy will be seeking to learn resistance policy on a post-Soviet government, as draft documents approved at Geneva provide the United Nations with a role in monitoring the implementation of an eventual agreement.

The seven-party resistance alliance insists on a nonaligned, purely mujahidin government.

The alliance rejected twice this month Pakistani President Muhammed Ziaul Haq's suggestion to form a tripartite government of mujahidin, refugees and the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan.

The rebel alliance warned in a statement at the weekend that whoever advanced such proposals "would be inviting our enmity".

But Senator Munir Afridi of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that resistance leaders had agreed to show "flexiblity" after Pakistani assurances that the Soviet Union would not "abandon their people to be slaughtered or massacred." [sentence as received]

Commenting on the alliance's latest rejection of Mr. Ziaul Haq's proposal to share power in Kabul, he said: "Behind the scenes, they realise it has to be a compromise settlement."

He added that there was "a cautious movement forward" after last month's U.S.-Soviet summit for the upcoming Geneva talks to succeed.

The Soviet Communist Party newspaper PRAVDA has said a troops withdrawal could start from May 1, but Afghan specialists here remain cautious.

While Moscow has said it will remove all its forces, including tanks and artillery, there has been no mention of the Vakhan corridor linking Afghanistan with China and annexed by the Soviet Union after its December 1979 intervention in Afghanistan.

Western diplomats say there are still many outstanding issues which any side could pick up as a "good excuse" not to sign the agreement.

Foreign Ministry on Prospects for Geneva Talks

LD171731 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Replying to a question by a BIA correspondent concerning the visit by the UN representative, His Excellency Diego Cordovez, to Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the upcoming talks in Geneva between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated:

Despite all the problems and obstacles, the Geneva talks between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan, which are being conducted through the UN representative, have traveled a long path and have prepared the way for a real solution to the situation around Afghanistan. These talks could be utilized as a concrete basis for the restoration of peace and stability in the region.

The fourth phase of the seventh round of these talks, which ended on 10 September, played an important role in bringing the positions of both countries closer. At the end of these talks, it was decided that the next round will be fixed through diplomatic channels. As a result of this decision, UN envoy Diego Cordovez is due to visit the region on 23 January to carry out necessary consultations with the relevant authorities of the countries concerned.

In the course of these consultations, the preliminaries for talks in the upcoming round and their precise date will be set. Since the conclusion of the fourth phase of the seventh round, great changes have taken place on the national and international levels and the policy of national reconciliation is firmly forging ahead in Afghanistan. With the convocation of the historical Grand Assembly, the appointment of the president, and the promulgation of the democratic Constitution, the basis of a pluralistic system has been established in the country. The question of a timeframe for the return of the Soviet troops, as was announced by President of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibullah, at the Grand Assembly, could be realized in a period of less than 1 year.

The present international atmosphere also seems to have improved more significantly than in the past. As a result of the desire of our people for peace and stability in the region, the republican government of Afhanistan has without interruption consistently taken part in the talks with a logical, sound, and principled stand and with goodwill and flexibility. This time, too, we will make every effort to prepare opportunities, because the coming round of talks is the final and decisive one.

We believe that along with the unresolved problems—which we should discuss and reach agreement on—the conditions for the final success of the talks already exist.

From among the four documents pertaining to the talks, three documents have almost been completed and the fourth, along with the mutual [as heard] linking document concerning the return of the limited contingents of the Soviet Union, could be finalized in light of the constructive stand by the Afghan side. Provided the opposite side also shows goodwill and realism, agreement would be reached over it.

As far as it depends on the Republic of Afghanistan, we have traveled our half of the distance with goodwill and sound and logical flexibility. If the Pakistani side truely shows that it is interested in the solution of the situation around Afghanistan and the return of peace and stability to the region, then it should come to this round of talks with general and political goodwill.

British 'Advisor' to Rebels Reportedly Killed

LD182000 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] A British advisor to the Afghan revolution opposition extremists was recently killed in Afghan territory during military operations. The [word indistinct] concluded between the United States and Saudi Arabia had been sent illegally to Afghanistan. The news of the death of the British citizen was reported by the U.S. news agency [as heard], quoting intelligence sources of that country.

The report adds that another British citizen, who had earlier been sent to Afghanistan under this secret agreement, had also been killed in Afghanistan. They were engaged in working with a military affairs (?committee) in the country. This delegation from the [name indistinct] company, which was led by [name indistinct], had been sent to Afghanistan for subversive activities.

The British [name indistinct] company has been active in military operations in [name indistinct], Nicaragua, and Sri Lanka. The company supplies [name indistinct] for carrying out activities in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Mujahidin Shoot Down 2 Helicopters Near Laghman

BK170835 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have shot down two helicopters in the northeastern valley of Laghman. The pilots and nine Soviet troops on board were killed on the spot.

The mujahidin have also destroyed a security post at (Satkari) in Parvan Province.

Najibullah Speaks at Reconciliation Anniversary

LD170727 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0518 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, January 16, BAKHTAR—It was exactly a year ago when for the first time, the words of war-stricken people echoed from this historical hall for conciliation and cordial interest for ending the fratricidal war, said Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, in the extra-ordinary session of the High Commission for National Reconciliation held on the occasion of the first anniversary of the declaration of national reconciliation.

I wished to believe that our people will name January 15 as day of peace. Right from this day we began to implement the policy of national reconciliation. The humane nature of national reconciliation, President Najibullah added, as inherent with the wishes and aspirations of the people of Afghanistan. The policy of national reconciliation has come about by the people themselves.

We speak with pride about our gains and successes in the hard struggle. In the course of this year 3,200 villages joined peacefully the popular sovereignty, while in the last eight years only 6,200 villages came under state control. Over 110,000 Afghans have returned to their ancestral villages from Iran and Pakistan while before that around 10,000 people returned annually to the country, he added.

Over 40,000 formerly armed opposition men ceased resistance and signed protocols of conciliation and ceasefire and their six thousand representatives are now included in the coalition organs. Along with former opposition armed men over 150,000 people resumed their peaceful life. I want to point out that the total number of the opposition which laid down arms was not more than 12,000 people in the years of undeclared war. At the demand of the commissions for national reconciliation over 12,000 prisoners have been released from jails.

Thanks to the peaceful initiatives of the people, "peace zones" have been established which is now a political reality of the country. 165 districts and sub-districts, two provinces and 1,150 villages are located in the peace zones where around 3 million people live while such facts couldn't exist a year ago.

One of the good aspects of reconciliation is promotion of national economy, paying active attention to private entrepreneurs, producers of goods, improvement of land and water regulations, encouragement of handicrafts and growth of market system, said Najibullah.

During the last year, after the announcement of the policy of national reconciliation, new national industrial institutions were set up and thirty enterprises in the private and joint sectors of the Afghan private economy were rehabilitated.

Industrial output was increased 3.5 percent and one hundred and thirty eight thousand tons of wheat were produced during this span of time.

We have never achieved such a result neither before the revolution nor after its victory.

Let us put a specific question before ourselves. What has an ordinary civic family obtained from the state?

We presume the family of a worker in the state institution whose two sons serve in the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan. Three other children of the family are students at schools. The yearly increase in the salary of the head of the family including free distribution of a part of coupon material and other privileges reaches to 20,000 afghanis.

They are provided with facilities to purchase clothing and materials, through the military trading system one and a half or even two times cheaper from the ordinary market prices.

At the start of the new school year, children of the family, like other students, will be served with free breakfast and uniforms.

These facilities will assist remarkably to the family budget of the ordinary citizen of the city.

We were the first who proposed dialogue. The ceasefire was observed precisely for 52 days and nights. But subversive and terroristic activities intensified. The extremists in Kabul and provinces organised 40 explosions, and 12 terroristic actions as a result of which 95 persons were martyred and 140 others wounded and eight persons abducted.

Servere hostility towards national reconciliation, three to four times expansion of attacks on villages and cities, compelled the Armed Forces to counter them.

Why had imperialism, the intransigent part of counter-revolution and reaction of the region adopted hostile actions against national reconciliation. What impeded them not to support our peaceful initiatives. The reply to these questions is simple and is known to everybody, the president stated.

Firstly, it is because that the victory of conciliation for them is to lose an important political chance which is used for pressing the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. Secondly, because the victory of conciliation expedites the progressive, social and economic transformations. It will also intensify anti-imperialist democratic national movement in the free countries and weakens the position of imperialism and reaction in the continent of Asia.

Without awaiting for the accord of the leaders of counter-revolution, we began the creation of coalition in the localities, that is, in the villages, counties, districts and provinces, said Najibullah in his speech.

Thus, the policy of national reconciliation which was faced with the open hostile position of "seven alliance" in Peshawar was not stopped. Because the policy which came about by the people opens the path for itself in the units of coalition administration. Today, every sixth administrative unit in the country consists of coalition administration.

The president stated in a part of his speech that elections law will be approved in the future and an election campaign will be immediately launched. Undoubtedly, all parties and political organisations, all patriotic figures in the country and abroad will participate in it.

On the return of the internationalist Soviet military contingents from Afghanistan to their homeland the president said we are waiting for the success of the Geneva talks.

Presently, the Soviet forces are not present in 13 provinces of Afghanistan. Why does the other side not enter in coalition in these provinces.

In case the imperialist forces and the reactionary powers in the region stop providing arms and ammunition to the irreconcilable extremists groups and guarantee non-resumption of their interventions in the internal affairs of our country, the return of the Soviet contingents could be further accelerated.

Response to this question depends to the US Administration and Pakistani leadership.

Najibullah, Rafi' Address Military Ceremony

LD182113 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The successful conclusion of the tasks of some of the units and companies of the country's Armed Forces in breaking the siege and economic blockade of Khowst major district, during which the Gardeyz-Khowst highway was opened to traffic and the 9-year-long siege of the major district was broken, was marked today by a military ceremony in Revolution Square in Kabul city.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, general secretary of the PDPA Central Council, and supreme commander of the country's Armed Forces, took part in the ceremony. He encouraged and praised the troops, NCO's, and officers of the units and companies who took part in the Paktia Province operations. With self-sacrifice and courage they rescued more than 40,000 of our compatriots from the economic blockade.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the following people also took part: Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan; members of the Politburo and Secretariat of the PDPA Central Committee; leaders of the political parties included in the coalition; the chairman of the National Front; members of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan; generals and high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces; a number of friendly countries' ambassadors and diplomatic corps' members in Kabul; heroes of the Republic of Afghanistan and heroes of work; a number of foreign guests and journalists; and a number of Kabul citizens. [passage omitted]

Major General Muhammad Rafi', minister of defense of the Republic of Afghanistan, gave a speech. He praised the preparedness of the country's Armed Forces for defending the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. On behalf of the personnel of the Armed Forces he assured the people of Afghanistan, the PDPA Central Committee, and the Republic of Afghanistan, headed by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, that the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan are ready, in accordance with the articles enshrined in the Constitution, to defend the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the country. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Commission Postpones Elections to 3 Mar

BK181254 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Bangladesh Election Commission has partially revised the schedule for holding election to the national parliament. Under the new schedule announced by the commission in Dhaka on Monday, polls will now be held on Thursday, the 3d of March next, instead of 28th of February announced earlier.

The Election Commission has appealed to all concerned, including political parties, to cooperate with the commission in holding the election fairly and smoothly.

Ershad: Presidential Elections 'If Necesasary'

BK170800 Hong Kong AFP in English 0730 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 17 (AFP)—Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad has indicated he would be ready to hold fresh presidential elections if necessary.

"If necessary, we are agreeable to hold the presidential polls... And we would be always ready to hand over power to anybody winning the elections," Mr. Ershad said in an exclusive interview with the government-owned Dhaka newspaper DAINIK BANGLA published on Sunday.

The president said he was ready to hold fresh presidential elections "to keep up with constitutional process."

But Mr. Ershad stressed that he would not "bow down to any opposition pressures on the question of the Constitution" and ruled out the possibility of handing over power to any "non-partisan, neutral and caretaker government," as demanded by the opposition.

The country's major opposition parties and alliances, who have been campaigning for his resignation, are preparing to boycott early parliamentary elections scheduled for February 28.

The opposition maintains that free and fair polls cannot be held unless the government first steps down in favour of a neutral caretaker government.

"There is no constitutional scope for meeting such opposition demands," Mr. Ershad told the DAINIK BANGLA, reiterating that elections were the only constitutional means to change the government and overcome the current political crisis.

The president dissolved Parliament in December after declaring a state of emergency on November 27 at the height of an opposition campaign aimed at forcing him to step down.

Asks Opposition To Join Polls

BK171602 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Excerpt] President Ershad has said those political parties which had been indulging in the politics of terrorism and indiscipline do not want the welfare of the people. He was addressing a grand weavers rally at the Shimulduria ground at Kazipur in Sirajganj today. The president advised those political parties to seek mandate of the people through polls instead of taking recourse to destruction of property and disruption of economy. Otherwise, he pointed out, they would soon become a nonentity in the political arena of the country and their politics would go into oblivion.

President Ershad regretted the design of a handful of political parties to keep the country dependent on others and said the people of the country are aware who had imported [from India] low quality sari and lungi [Bangladesh dresses] immediately after the independence of the country which the people could not use at all. He said the nation achieved independence to stand on its own feet and not to remain dependent on others. All the endeavors of his government are directed toward achieving self-reliance in every sphere of national life. But he regretted the so-called [opposition] movement continues to hamper the pace of development. [passage omitted]

Opposition Demands Free, 'Impartial' Election

BK160342 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] chief and leader of the seven-party alliance Begum Khaleda Zia has stressed the need for further intensifying the movement to pave the way for a neutral and caretaker government to hold free and fair elections. Addressing a group of intellectuals in Dhaka yesterday, she said the opposition movement will continue till the resignation of the present government.

The four groups of Bangladesh Muslim League have set up a committee to unify the party. In a press release, the party leaders said the solution to the prevailing political impasse lies in holding a free and impartial election.

The Central Coordinating Council meeting of the Freedom Party has ended, empowering the party high command to take decision with regard to the coming parliamentary polls. Addressing a meeting, party chairman Syed Faruq Rahman said the anti-people politics will have to be avoided to get rid of the present political situation.

Sheikh Hasina Reiterates Anti-Government Stand

BK190204 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] The chief of Awami League and leader of the eight-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina, has said only constitutional democracy can bring about political stability in the country and economic emancipation for the people. She was exchanging views with the teachers of the Dhaka University yesterday.

Speaking to the newsmen, she also reiterated that the current opposition movement will continue till the resignation of the present government.

Acting amir [chief] of the Jamiat-i-Islami, Abbas Ali Khan, has said elections can only be held under a caretaker government with the withdrawal of state of emergency and release of all political prisoners immediately. He was addressing a meeting at Mal Bazaar in Dhaka yesterday.

Police Reportedly Teargas Rally; 20 Injured

BK160722 Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 16 (AFP)—At least 20 people were injured when police used batons and tear gas shells to break up an opposition-backed industrial workers' rally near Dhaka, local police said Saturday.

The police action in the town of Narayanganj, 16 kilometers (10 miles) east of the capital, followed repeated warnings not to hold the rally banned under a state of emergency imposed by President Hussain Mohammad Ershad on November 27, police sources in Narayanganj said.

Police broke up the rally of several thousand people with batons and tear gas shells, the police sources said. They denied press reports here that police also fired several shots into the air during the incident.

They said the workers also attacked police with bricks and stone missiles. At least 20 people were injured, including several policemen.

Opposition sources said about 20 people were injured including a leader of the labour wing of Begum Khaleda Zia's opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

The rally was called by the Sramik Karmachari Okkya Parishad (SKOP), a major opposition-backed federation of more than 20 trade unions, in support of a two-day general strike across Bangladesh due to begin Wednesday.

The strike has been called by major opposition parties and groups demanding Mr. Ershad's resignation and a boycott of February 28 parliamentary elections.

The SKOP, which has a wide following among workers in the industrial, transport and other sectors, has extended its full backing to the strike which coincides with the date fixed for filing nomination papers for the election.

The leaders of the opposition alliance, Begum Zia and Sheikh Hasina Wajed of the Awami League, had threatened to organise "resistance" to prevent would-be candidates taking part in the February polls for 300 of the 330 parliamentary seats.

The remaining 30 seats are reserved for women to be nominated by the newly-elected MP's.

A report from the southwestern city of Khulna Saturday said that two young men were injured Friday in an explosion at a house.

Police suspected the blast took place while they were making bombs. The two injured men, aged between 18 and 20, escaped after receiving first aid from a private clinic and police had began a hunt for them.

Student Demonstration Reported in Dhaka

BK170412 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, thousands of students yesterday joined in a demonstration at Dhaka University campus to protest against the holding of elections next month.

The demonstrators raised anti-government slogans and urged the people to boycott the proposed elections. Meanwhile, the government has announced the reopening of the two major universities. The universities were closed in November last amid violent opposition movement aimed at ousting President Ershad.

Protest Casualties Noted

BK180754 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] In the continuing unrest in Bangladesh, at least 28 people were injured, two of them seriously, during anti-government demonstrations yesterday. In Rajshahi, students fought a pitched battle with the police during a protest march by the seven-party opposition alliance. Two students sustained serious injuries. In Narayanganj, 15 persons were hurt in clashes between police and opposition activists. Processions and rallies are banned under the state of emergency declared by President Ershad in November.

Curfew Reimposed in 5 Cities Beginning 15 Jan

BK151557 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Curfew will be reimposed in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Chittagong, Khulna, and Rajshahi cities from 0000 tonight to 0400 tomorrow morning. The industrial areas of Demra, Fatullah, Adamji, and Faujdar Hat will, however, remain outside the purview of the curfew.

India

Rajasthan Chief Minister Decides To Resign

BK181311 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Rajasthan chief minister, Mr Hari Deo Joshi, has decided to resign. The Congress-I general secretary, Mr Chaturvedi, told newsmen in New Delhi this evening that the state Congress-I legislature party will be meeting in Jaipur on Wednesday to elect a new leader. He said that Mr Joshi had sought permission to step down and the Congress-I president has given permission to do so.

Gandhi Orders Minister To Quit

BK181402 Hong Kong AFP in English 1352 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 18 (AFP)—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi ordered the chief minister of Rajasthan State to quit Monday, it was announced here.

Chief Minister Hari Deo Joshi, a senior member of India's ruling Congress (I) Party, was asked to resign during a 20-minute meeting with Mr. Gandhi, who is the party's president, Congress (I) General Secretary G.K. Moopanar said.

Mr. Joshi will tender his resignation to Rajasthan Governor Vasant Dada Patil "in a day or two," Mr. Moopanar said, adding that a successor would be named Tuesday.

Mr. Joshi, who became chief minister in 1985, was accused by the Congress (I) leadership of anti-party activities, mismanagement of drought relief and delays in district-level elections.

Rajasthan, in northern India, is a largely desert state which borders Pakistan. It is considered a Congress (I) bastion.

Mr. Joshi's predecesor, Shiv Charan Mathur, was sacked in similar fashion after being implicated in a murder case.

Rajasthan is one of 13 states administered by Mr. Gandhi's party. Eleven others are under opposition control while Punjab is under direct rule from New Delhi.

Opposition Leader, 2,000 'Activists' Arrested

BK181134 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 18 (AFP)—Police Monday arrested a prominent leader and 2,000 activists of the Bharatiya Janata (People's) Party (BJP) as they launched a week of protests against Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government.

BJP parliamentary leader Atal Behari Vajpayee were [as received] arrested as he and party supporters broke police cordons and tried to march on Parliament to demand that Mr. Gandhi's government quit, police said.

Also arrested was [as received] local party leader Madan Lal Khurana and 2,000 party activists, said area police chief S. Rajgopal.

The activists included 300 women who were bundled into buses as they joined the week-long protest against price rises, killings by Sikh militants in Punjab State and alleged corruption by the government.

"We will picket government buildings, offices and ministries for the next week to lodge the nation's protest against Mr. Gandhi's failure in all fronts," said Mr. Vajpayee as police pulled him away.

"We are ready to go to prison, but we will not lift our campaign against the corrupt government of Mr. Gandhi," he added.

The rightist BJP has protested against Mr. Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party before, but this was the first time that Mr. Vajpayee was personally arrested.

Addressing party activists from inside a ring of policemen, Mr. Vajpayee said Mr. Gandhi's government was embroiled in scandals over kickbacks in defence deals and had failed to combat Sikh militancy in Punjab.

Mr. Vajpayee, a former foreign minister, said Mr. Gandhi was "sacrificing" Indian soldiers in Sri Lanka and spending millions of dollars every day in the military offensive aimed at disarming Tamil guerrillas there.

Vajpayee, Others Released

BK181252 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Bharatiya Janata Party held a demonstration in New Delhi today demanding the resignation of the government and mid-term poll. Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, who led the demonstration, alleged that the government has failed on all fronts. He criticized the policies of the center on Punjab and Sri Lanka.

Mr Vajpayee and his party workers were taken into custody by the police for violation of prohibitory orders. They were later released.

Police Arrest Gurkhas, Seize Arms in Kalimpong

BK151612 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, the police today recovered 10 guns, 2 pipe guns, and a huge quantity of ammunition and explosive material from the house of one Gurkha volunteer cell leader in Kalimpong Subdivision. The superintendent of police told our Siliguri correspondent that the police party went to that area to conduct raids early this morning when it was attacked with bombs. Police opened fire; but there was no casualty. Twenty-five GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were arrested from that area.

In another incident at Singal Simana area in Kurseong Subdivision, police patrol parties were fired upon at three places. Police returned the fire in which one worker of the Gurkha volunteer cell was killed and another injured. One subinspector and two constables were also injured in the incident. Twelve persons were arrested. Some bomb-making equipment was also recovered from the area.

Delhi Police Declare Alert Against 'Terrorists'

BK161605 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Delhi police today declared a general alert against four terrorists who are suspected to be in the capital. According to the police, the terrorists are likely to attack individuals and cause explosions to create panic and confusion in the city. Descriptions of the terrorists and their photographs were released today to enable the public to be on the lookout for them. The terrorists are: Surjit Singh, alias Pinda; Sukhdev Singh, alias Sukha Sipahi; Daljit Singh, alias Bittu; and Sukhwinder Singh, alias Chinda. The people have also been advised not to touch any unidentified and unclaimed objects in public places.

Police Discover Arms Factory In Darjeeling

BK161615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, the police today unearthed a big arms manufacturing plant and recovered a huge quantity of arms and ammunition at Dangra Basti under Phulbazar police station in Darjeeling Subdivision. The DIG [Deputy Inspector General of police], Darjeeling, told our Kurseong correspondent that the police recovered eight improvised cannons and about 1,100 kg of bomb-making material. The police arrested six GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists from the area.

'Terrorist', 2 Policemen Killed in Punjab

BK170414 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, a terrorist and two policemen were killed in separate incidents since last night. In Hoshiarpur District, a terrorist was killed in an encounter with the police in a village under Mahalpur police station this morning. In Amritsar District, a police ASI [Assistant Subinspector], Mr Ravinder Kumar, and a constable, Mr Kultar Singh, were killed when terrorists ambushed a police party near village (Satrah Kalan) last night. The police party was ambushed while it was returning after visiting a village in that area in connection with the investigation of a case.

8 More People Killed

BK170802 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, eight more persons, including five members of a family, were shot dead by terrorists in two incidents last night. In Gurdaspur District, a farmer, his wife, and three sons were killed by terrorists in village Kokli near Batala. According to a police spokesman, one of the killed sons is known to be a terrorist. In another incident, three bullet-ridden bodies were recovered near a drain in Jandiala village of Amritsar District.

Security Forces Arrest 7

BK171255 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Seven terrorists have been arrested by security forces in Amritsar District. The arrested include a terrorist, Sukhbhinder Singh, carrying a reward of 30,000 rupees on his head.

Ex-General Charged With Spying for Arms Dealer

BK151605 Hong Kong AFP in English 1515 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 15 (AFP)—Federal detectives have charged a former Indian Army general on suspicion of selling defence secrets to an unidentified international arms dealer, it was announced here Friday [15 January].

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said Nirmal Puri was formally charged with spying last week after the retired lieutenant general's home was raided and documents seized.

Gen. Puri was also ordered not to leave New Delhi without police permission, a CBI spokesman said.

Gen. Puri, who commanded an artillery division, was engaged in an Army operation in 1984 to flush out Sikh militants from the Golden Temple in Amritsar.

India banned arms merchants from entering the Defence Ministry complex in 1983 after a retired major general and an air vice marshal were arrested for selling defence secrets to arms dealers and four embassies here.

Minister Pant Supports Defense Spending

BK171611 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, said spending on defense and defense production is essential since national security continues to be the top priority. Addressing a meeting of Army officials in Bareilly today, he said the country had to face a number of outside challenges in the past and so laxity could not be shown in this regard.

The defense minister said the piling up of arms by Pakistan has created regional tension.

Mr Pant justified the presence of the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka, saying that the measures aimed at safeguarding the interest of the people.

Natwar Singh Leaves for Paris, Stockholm Visits

BK170915 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, left for Paris this morning for bilateral talks with the French Government. From Paris, Mr Natwar Singh will go to Stockholm on Tuesday for discussions prior to the summit meeting of the six countries from five continents. The summit on nuclear disarmament is scheduled to be held on the 21st of this month.

U.S. 'Blind Eye' to Pakistan Nuclear Theft

BK170405 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] A West German news magazine says nuclear know-how from Bonn was smuggled to Pakistan through a Belgian company. The magazine, DER SPIEGEL, says that Nukem, the company at the center of the scandal, had supplied Islamabad with heavy water needed for a bomb. The magazine said this had facilitated Pakistani research into the atomic bomb. Officials of Nukem admitted that uranium (?hexachloride) was exported to Pakistan.

A spokesman of the International Atomic Energy Agency confirmed reports that West Germany had asked the agency for information on how Nukem company was able to export weapons-grade nuclear material to Pakistan and Libya. Reports also say that Nukem works in close cooperation with the Belgian (Malnuclear) research center, which is engaged in training 36 Pakistani nuclear scientists against the wishes of Belgium.

India is awaiting the details of the probe ordered by the West German Government into the reports of weapons-grade nuclear material being shipped illegally to Pakistan by the company. Official sources in New Delhi said that the 480 million [dollar] U.S. military assistance to Pakistan will further embolden Islamabad to go ahead with its nuclear program and blatantly indulge in theft of nuclear material from Western countries. The sources noted that the U.S. Administration had chosen to turn a blind eye to thefts of nuclear material by Pakistani nationals—Nasir Ahmad and Parvez—from the United States in violation of American laws.

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Friday Prayers

First Sermon on Islamic Government

LD152055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1507 GMT 15 Jan 88

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 15 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In this sermon, which is a continuation of the discussion on social justice, I will complete what was talked about in the last sermon. For us, as well as for the observers of new issues arising in our society, this is the issue of the day. Of course, this topic could also be discussed in the second sermon, but because of its importance, I will devote a separate sermon entirely to explaining current problems for our public who, I am sure, are eager to have more information on what is happening.

What is occupying everyone's mind, both inside and outside the country—save a limited number of persons who can well understand the problem—is the desire to hear certain explanations and to be given some clarification about the comments being made these days with regard to the subject of Velayat-e Faqih in society. I think that it is one of the duties of the Friday sermons to explain and clarify such issues for the public, in so far as time and opportunity permit. There is a need for this issue to be discussed in a healthy atmosphere and for exchanges of thought and judgment within this atmosphere to bring the matter to its logical conclusion.

In the course of this last year or so, his eminence, the imam of the ummah, has issued certain remarks, comments, and opinions and has written works which, though not new to those of his students who have learned from his lessons and who are familiar with his school of thought, were something new to the world and to ordinary people, as well as to that category of the ulema not familiar with his grace's jurisprudence and specialized field of scholarship. There is a need to explain this discourse to the public in simple language. The world has more of a need for these explanations than we do. Many of those who are familar with Islamic culture, the Shia's culture, can understand, up to a point, what is being said. However, the world at large is confused about this, and however much it hears what is being said, it cannot truly properly understand it. [passage omitted] We do not necessarily think that it is our duty to guide the world, and we could leave it in the dark with its ignorance. But when we explain these things for you, it too will understand. If the people of the world do not have any ill will, they will change their interpretations. I also invite them to listen carefully to what I have to say. [passage omitted]

In his last letter, his grace the imam fortunately encouraged the media, announcers, presenters, and the ulema to discuss this topic. God willing, the discussions will be free from bias and political factionalism. Of course, they cannot be free from politics since the matter essentially is a political one in general. It is hoped that the discussions and debates will be free from biased political factionalist stance-taking, and will rise to the level of lofty Islamic culture.

The point I should stress at the outset—and it is something to which foreigners need to pay attention—is that in these interpretations and remarks, the imam never intended to reproach a particular person or institution, or to prefer one particular person or institution to another. Foreigners analyze things in accordance with their own mental background and way of thought. They have constructed a picture that there is a race for power, that there are clashes over power, that factions and groups are seeking to strengthen their own positions, and that influential individuals are seeking to drive their rivals from the arena. This is the basis of their thoughts; this is how they view the scene. When they read about the opinions of the imam, their interpretation is that the imam has preferred this current and smashed that current; that he has accepted this person and did not accept that person; that he has strengthened this institution and weakened that institution. But this is not true. The imam wants the reality of Velayat-e Faqih and Islamic government to be defined, for it is something which is not yet clear to the people. This lack of clarity has created many problems for us in practice, and in my previous sermon I explained the difficulties being encountered by the legislature and executive machinery in this regard. In order to solve this problem of an Islamic society for the future, the imam has decided to speak and to put pen to paper. If in the imam's interpretations it transpires that some persons were correct and others were mistaken, then it is certainly not what the imam intended; that is, weakening one and strengthening another.

When something has been said, it naturally becomes clear that one person was correct and that another made a mistake. But this is all done with good will. The imam knows this. In his last two or three letters, the imam clarified this point: He is not biased toward any institution or person. He was merely referring to them. To me it is as clear as daylight that as far as the imam is concerned, all posts are equal to him within the terms of their own conditions and related salaries. From the standpoint of their relations with the imam, his grace would like to keep everyone, whatever his status or rank, in a state of popularity, respect, and strength.

In the midst of all this, the Islamic Consultative Assembly is a huge social base; it is a respected institution which should remain popular and respected. The Guardian Council is also a respected institution. It acts as the watchdog over the legislative process, which is the preserver of Islamic and religious law. It should be popular and respected so that it will be able to carry out its duties. The presidency is a rank which, from the standpoint of official status, is the first in the state after his eminence, the imam and the deputy leader. The presidency, and the person holding that rank, should remain popular and respected from the point of view of the imam and the rest of us.

The government is responsible for implementing affairs and regulations. It shoulders the most difficult of responsibilities in a state of war. The most difficult tasks fall on the shoulders of the Cabinet and the prime minister. They must be strong so that they will be able to cope with the country's difficulties and problems.

The judiciary, cultural institutions, and the rest of them—the Army, the Guards Corps, the Gendarmerie, committees—that is, everything that exists, they all have their own place. They are all among the children of the imam, and the imam, in his status as leader and father, regards all of them in the same light. We know that in his heart the imam is not happy with the fact that in explaining the truth, one of these groups may be weakened. His grace has commented on the Guardian Council, saying that it has neither been weakened nor will it ever be weakened, and that all foundations must be upheld with dignity. With regard to the presidency, his grace has addressed his excellency as brother: There is much between the rank of his holiness the imam and his excellency, Khamene'i. Thus, the high esteem bestowed on his excellency by being addressed as brother was revealed. His holiness likened his excellency to the mighty arm of the revolution.

This expression contains no exaggeration. His holiness has stated that no change has been made in his views about his excellency for many years. The imam does not exaggerate. His excellency the president, Mr Khamene'i, is among the vanguards of those clergymen who have served the revolution from the very first hours of the revolutionary flames in 1340 [year beginning 22 March 1962], almost 25 years ago. To this day, not one step has been taken by his excellency away from the struggle or jihad. Furthermore, he has taken steps with even greater strength, resolve, and preparedness to serve in the arena of revolutionary zeal. [cheers] His excellency has one of the highest claims for the revolution, and I am among those who vouch for such a right. I have been with his excellency since the 1st year; we are still together and will be until eternity.

I announce that after the imam, his holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri [cheers] is now the strongest element among the dignitaries of the revolution. This is considering his background, his fruitful thought, and the morality of the gentleman himself. In those days of struggle, when we held our breath, we really took strength from the presence of his excellency, as we do today. The Guardian Council, and its clergy members, all are appointed by his holiness the imam. God forbid, if the imam were to be displeased by anyone, then it would be his holiness who would be duty-bound to remove them first. It is a clear and explicit given that the imam is an overseer of them all. They must remain there and support Islam and the Constitution.

The situation is the same with regard to other issues. The Majlis, as his holiness has repeatedly said, is above all affairs; it is the axis of things. As you have seen, the government was given high status and the authority to implement state-imposed corporal punishment. Normally, this would have been done by the Majlis, the Guardian Council, and others before implementation.

Therefore, foreigners studying our affairs should not believe that there is a confrontation or a clash of power or that the imam is picking one person or foundation over another. The imam wants the bounds and authorities of all foundations to be clarified so that they can cooperate. Of course, they are cooperating already, but the problem lies in the presence of vague points that must be clarified. In this new phase these must be clarified, and we are in the process of doing so. Among the issues which are unclear are the limits and authority of the Islamic government in passing laws and restricting the freedom of the public.

This is the essence of the discussions. Among the many things that Westerners do not understand and about which they are baffled is the fact that Islam is a wholesome religion and that everything is written in terms of Islam. That is to say, when we established a government in the name of Islam, we believed that all the needs of a society—be it 1,400 years ago, today, or even thousands of years from now as the world evolves—could be satisfied by entities established within Islam and its heritage by those who are familiar with Islam and its interpretations of such needs.

Westerners do not know this and consider religion to be a link between the individual and God; they see Christianity in this way and they view Islam similarly. Therefore, they believe that such issues do not require clashes since it is normal for them to have assemblies pass laws. In the United States, in Europe, and in democratic countries, the issue of assemblies passing laws is not even discussed. They just have their constitutions, which provide a framework for the laws being passed by their assemblies.

There are certain traditions in particular that might be observed. There might be some traditions in their way of life beyond which nothing else matters. Here, though, when they see debates among the Majlis, the Guardian Council, and the clergy over the Majlis passing a particular law, it presents a problem for them. They cannot understand it. We are residing over a vast treasure, a vast ocean of culture. We are not venturing outside this ocean; furthermore, we should not venture beyond it since we can enjoy our own treasure. We are obliged—and it is a privilege, a power, and a source of wealth—to pass laws within the framework of Islam. The important point to note is that the Islam of 1,400 years ago in the Arabian Peninsula, in a Bedouin city—an economy based on dates, herds of sheep and camels, some agricultural produce with limited trade with Iran and the Fertile Crescent, and a culture limited to some Bedouin poetry—laid down laws that were implemented gradually over a period of 10 years.

The law of those times and that nation is about to be implemented in a world within which humans go deep inside the earth, extracting economic deposits from thousands of meters below ground, pursue a space race to conquer Mars, use the nucleus of the atom as an awesome weapon to defend themselves or as an offensive against others, and conquer the skies, the earth, the oceans, and the mountains. Learned lawmakers delve into the essence of theory about the administration of a country and write essays and books in universities while studying law—at present millions of people are busy studying law to improve human society.

The laws of Islam descended from 1,400 years ago for a limited society. If they are to become the axis of administration for society and are to be used by a nation as a weapon to struggle against the whole of global arrogance, then there will be many sensitive issues to which Islam must respond.

What percentage of the Islamic laws that we implement today were raised during the time of the prophet, and what percentage of them were implemented by the prophet or responded to by him? For instance, if today we have a million problems, 100,000 of them might have been raised during the life of the prophet, even if summarily. In the texts I have come upon some generalities, some guidelines, and criteria; ways and sources have been placed at our disposal. It is the jurisconsults who must study them and, on the basis of the criteria inherent in them, chart the way of life for the people of each age and under specific conditions. And yet, in this very age in which we now live, conditions are not uniform. At one time there is a war, at another time there is an economic blockade, and at still another time normal conditions prevail. For each of these situations different regulations apply. We cannot always apply regulations which we have set for peace time. [passage omitted]

Who should carry out these affairs for us? If we were like the Western countries, then we would not have had these debates. Experts would have sat down in the Majlis and voted for what they thought was good. Then what they had voted for would have been implemented. But this is not enough for us now. We want to be Muslims. And because we want to be Muslims, we need something else. That is, what we do must be built around Islam. It is here that governmental problems are raised. Not all the laws which were implemented during the time of the prophet were divine rules communicated in the Koran through the Angel Gabriel. Not everything which was implemented during the time of the prophet was ordained by God and brought by Gabriel for the prophet to execute.

There were certain matters in governmental affairs which were left to the prophet himself personally, as a ruler and a vice regent, to make decisions about.

In previous sermons I told you that Grand Ayatollah Montazeri used such a basis with regard to problems related to zakat [religious dues incumbent on every Muslim to pay]. He states that the Koran says we must collect taxes from the people in order to cleanse them. However, as to what to tax, whom to tax, how much to tax, and how to tax—none of these things are in the Koran. These things were decided by the prophet himself, using his own authority as a governor. At that time and in that society there were dates, raisins, sheep, camels, gold treasures, so the prophet levied taxes on these things. That was his governmental authority. In the beginning, in fact, there was no khoms [a mandatory religious levy equal to one-fifth of one's income]. Khoms was levied after the time of the prophet; we see it in later periods. It was levied by the imams who invoked their authority and powers as vice regents to do so. [passage omitted] Today, however, it is the government which decides who should pay khoms; it is the governmental authority to so decide. This is the blessed view of the deputy leader.

When we delve deeply into the history of many of the rules that we imagine are fixed and unchangable, we find that they are rules set by governments. They are decisions which fully qualified rulers have made during their times.

Well, we now have problems in our task of legislation. I will give you some examples. These problems must all be solved. We had the problem pertaining to land within city limits. A large number of people under some pretext or other took this land and registered it in their own name. These plots were situated within the city limits. They had a great deal of wealth for which they had not worked. How do we solve this problem? There is a land registration law according to which these people are owners. If they took possession of the land, then we have a religious principle on possession. They took possession and now it belongs to them. Must the ruler here wait for one person, for example, to possess 1 million meters of land in Tehran while millions of people lack sufficient land on which to build a single room? Is this acceptable to the ruler and to the regime?

Or take agricultural lands for example. In olden times, a prince went to some place and registered ownership of a valley with underground water, from one mountain to another. In so doing, he used the power of the village headmen or gendarmerie. One border was on a mountain, another at a river, and another at the road. He could not even survey it by car. A land registry official looked at it with binoculars and decided its borders on that basis. Only four trees were inside it. They called it a possession [hiyazat] and registered it. Now, this was on condition that it was done in a legitimate manner, and not taken by force or by driving the farmers away.

Can we say in Islamic government that all of the valley belongs to him and that all the farmers there are his serfs? Can we say that he can then treat them anyway he likes, giving them wages according to his whims, paying them 10 percent or 1 percent, and taking their poultry and eggs? There are also laws to support the farmers; he is the registered owner.

Forests were also a problem for the Majlis and the Council of Guardians. Forests are God's resources. These trees in the forests have taken millions of years to become a source of food and air purification for the world. The human hand has had nothing to do with their growth. Can we say in Islamic government that anyone can cut down trees to ruin the land? [passage omitted]

Mines are another of our main problems. We have rulings which say that any mine found on anyone's property belongs to the owner of the land. Well, such a ruling [fitva] belongs to a time when the mine was either for salt or for stone, or, if they dug deeper, a little gold or silver. Now there are billions of cubic meters of gas and oil under the ground, and this is as good as gold. If I had a garden here and under it there was such a mine, then does that belong to me personally? If so, then everyone in the country would have to come to me to ask for oil. These things demonstrate the difficulties of legislation. [passage omitted] But now the imam has solved the problem with his ruling.

As for the labor law, about which I spoke the other day, the tradition in the capitalist world—of course, not in today's capitalist world but in the Middle Ages—was that any employer could sign a contract with any worker. [passage omitted] They used to say that the worker is free and that the employer is free. The worker comes asking for work and the employer says: All right, come in to work for 10 hours a day, for example, and I will give you 50 tomans, take it or leave it. The employer would say: If you do not accept, then there are Afghans here and they will take it, especially as they have no bread. That is how it was. [passage omitted]

These are problems which the government must solve. It must attend to the affairs when such problems arise among the people in a society. It must ensure just and humane conditions so that no one can usurp somebody else's right. All the laws are, more or less, designed to limit the power of the people.

The imam established the criteria for this in the charter of the revolution, in the message that he issued for hajj. [chants of "God is great"] The message contains many things. In one portion that is relevant to the recent remarks of the imam, he warned against the revolution going toward capitalist rule. In other words, against conditions being created in the country where power stems from money and capital, and where capital can decide people's destiny. The imam banned this and stated that you should go toward a government of the oppressed. A feeling of fear is apparent in the imam's remarks about the possibility of society moving toward a point where the majority of the oppressed masses are forced to live under conditions imposed by the capitalists.

In the West, the capitalists currently dictate the trends of culture, economy, and morals. You may remember from my previous sermons that I stated that the real rulers in the United States are the cartels and trusts. The multinationals are the real rulers of the world right now. They dictate their policies through representatives who are elected with their money and propaganda to parliament, and through presidents who come into power and then do whatever they wish in the world. Of course, they arrange its superficial aspects.

The imam said not to take this route. His latest remarks about public resources, the labor law, the government's right to punish, hoarding, profiteering, and so on, as well as discussions with the Council of Guardians and others, have been over this issue, to set out the trend which has now been established. Nobody is denying the imam's leadership. Remarks made by the Council of Guardians spokesman, the secretary, and others were not a dispute. They all believe in the imam and are his students and emulators. We are all the same—the Majlis, Council of Guardians, the president, and the government—we are servants and must be so. Our legitimate right to interfere comes from the imam, since you know that this is the issue of Velayat-e Faqih. [passage omitted] I as Hashemi-Rafsanjani, or as a religious student or citizen, have no right to enact laws for people. I am their representative, yet I still do not have this right. The imam can give me this right. Velayat-e Faqih gives me this right. Therefore, if we take away the imam's approval for any of these organizations, then they have no value. We all realize this, the ulema, the clergy. If the imam is not willing for any one of us to be in office, then we have no right to participate in anything. The entire system's legitimacy stems from the position of the imam. Since the descendant of the Prophet is not here now, his deputy—that is, a cleric with the right qualification—among clerics with the right qualifications, the person that the people have accepted according to our own criterion, becomes the leader.

All those analysts and correspondents who talk about absolute power and who want to reason dictatorship out of this are very wrong. They have not understood. This is not the issue. Look at the democratic system that has been set up by Velayat-e Faqih with all its powers. There are councils, the Majlis, and the right to vote. Decisions start with the people. They all have the soul of Velayat and are made with that permission. Therefore, life is democratic; the movement is based on public opinion which manifests itself in our elections. Our president was elected by the people. Our head of government is selected by the Majlis and the president, who are themselves elected by the people. Under our Constitution, even the leader is selected by the Council of Experts—subject to meeting requirements—and the Council of Experts has been elected by the people.

So, as you see, democracy is present in a form better than in the West. The matter of absolute power is only in the hands of Velayat-e Faqih, who issues permission for such things. The system is not moving toward dictatorship or absolutism. This is what they are trying to indicate. This healthy style of government of the people by the people, with the permission of Valiy-e Faqih, will continue. This is our way and—God willing—in the discussions that you will hear on radio and television and see in the press, such issues will become more clear to you, while foreigners who know nothing about these issues will learn many things. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Elections, War

LD152136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1601 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Second Friday Prayers sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University on 15 January—recorded]

[Excerpts] The first issue that I would like to mention is the matter of Palestine. Good and effective action by the people of Palestine in the occupied lands has created a powerful wave in the world; it seems that these people have found their way. They have given an Islamic base to their movement; their slogans are Islamic; and Iran's experience has indicated their effectiveness. If there was anything but the Islamic nature in the movement of our nation, then it would not have been able to resist the mischief and barbarity of the rulers of the Pahlavi regime. We were able to remove the obstacles to the struggle by taking inspiration from Islam. The Palestinians have chosen the same route. [passage omitted]

Their resistence is worthy of praise. This is the way. If they continue this—and they are doing well—they will defeat Israel. No matter how harsh the treatment, one day the bullets will have no effect and, God willing, the people will win. [crowd chants]

The Palestinians have learned this from us or from the people of Lebanon. Southern Lebanon has many contacts with the occupied lands. In southern Lebanon, the people have proved the case by their resistance and have thrown Israel, France, Britain, the United States, and Italy out of their country. The Lebanese are considered to be the embodiment of resistance in current history. Naturally, the issues of south Lebanon will affect occupied Palestine. God willing, these two nations together will uproot oppression and the rule of infidels in that region.

Another issue to be discussed is that of the upcoming elections. I will make some general recommendations in this regard. Elections must be carried out because the term of the Majlis is coming to an end and because we are supposed to hold elections. What I would like to ask and to stress to all the people, the candidates, and their supporters is to ensure that they do nothing that will cause the slightest harm to the enormous movement that has been created by our people in the last 2 months at the fronts or to the morale of the combatants and this atmosphere of crusade. We accept that the warriors themselves want the elections. They rely on the Majlis and their representatives. They support them and will vote.

However, the expectation is that the elections will be held in a very healthy atmosphere which is completely in accordance with Islamic aspirations. As far as propaganda is concerned, and it will begin at the appropriate time, know this now: the basis of it should not be on allegations and the destruction of the opposition. It should be based on introducing yourselves, your views, and the service you wish to give to this society. Do not start thinking and preparing the grounds for dishonoring your opposition in society. Such things are not appropriate for a Muslim. If you wish to do anything, then just follow your own course.

Those who have access to a platform, whether they are in the Majlis or are delivering Friday sermons on radio and television, in the press, or anyone who in any way can talk or pen ideas, must not use such a public platform for the benefit of a specific individual. Whether you support them or not, let the people decide freely. It is undeniable injustice otherwise. We should not use the public platform that belongs to everyone—indeed it is illegal according to the election laws—to carry out propaganda and to push the opposition out of the field. [passage omitted] There will be a day when the media will be officially placed at the disposal of the candidates. At such a time their opinions should be reflected justly and equally so that people become familiar with them.

I advise the people to set aside their tribalism and friendship in public matters. Look and see who is the better one, and who will serve better. Ten years after the revolution those who become candidates are mostly people who are recognized in society. People know them. Vote for the most appropriate individual who can best serve the people. [passage omitted]

This is the soundest form of election. There may be instances and conditions when it might be necessary for some to guide the people in a certain direction. However, our people are aware right now and need no such guidance. The elections should be held freely, soundly, and in an Islamic atmosphere so that the people may vote for those who in their view will serve their interests. [crowd chants]

Our main problem now is the war. [passage omitted] As far as this war is concerned, thanks to God's blessing and to the perserverence of you dear people, we stand in the best of conditions now to acquire our rights. Following our exercises, registrations for going to war, preparations to provide so many forces, and indeed following the preparation of the groundwork from every point of view, our fighting forces are now on stand-by. They have their fingers on the trigger waiting to receive orders, to carry out what you have been waiting for for some time.

The starting point is the "Zafar-5" operations, which have now begun. God willing, you will soon hear good news from the media, news that I will not now discuss.

We began from one of the most sensitive points, situated 200 km inside Iraqi territory, close to Iraq's most vital resources, where Iraq's oil pipes pass, where the lifeline highway of Iraq passes, and where Iraq is as vulnerable as it is in Basra and Baghdad. The "Zafar-5" operations were launched with the cooperation of the Barzani combatants and the forces composed of your own children. These operations have exposed in an astonishing way the weakness and indiscipline of the Iraq Army. Our forces did not employ too many troops there; yet they easily captured—too easily—a town of 2,000 people and took what was needed. They took the roads around the town and, where necessary, took bridges and heights and annihilated thousands of Jash [not further identified] in the service of Iraq and thousands from the people's army of Iraq. They took ample booty from them. They showed how Iraq is vulnerable in that sensitive point. [passage omitted]

Do you remember 2 or 3 months ago when we gave the Security Council and the United Nations the facility for the first time to come forward and name the aggressor, if they were really telling the truth, if they really wanted to do right and to restore peace? We gave them the chance to come forward to name the aggressor, to condemn him so that the war and bloodshed could end and so that through peace the criminal could be punished and the victim given his rights. But rather than pay attention to this true path, rather than prove their claim of being peace-lovers, they began to show their teeth to us. The United States began to gather all of its warships from around the world, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and everywhere, and brought them here. England came, France came, Italy came, Holland came, Belgium came, and the USSR came. They used our counterrevolution wherever they happened to be as levers and spies; they gave them money to disrupt the frontline from behind.

The ignorant and reactionary Arab countries, who had invited them, have tied their fate to a tiny hair that is connected to them and that can be torn off at any moment. For several months they have increased tension in the Persian Gulf rather than bring security to it. If before their arrival one vessel was hit every week, now every week four vessels are hit. If before their arrival no danger threatened the oil regions of the south, today the danger is serious. If before their arrival the danger was in the northern Persian Gulf, today it has been extended to the southern Persian Gulf as well. [passage omitted]

Now you see that they have achieved nothing; now they have had to admit to it. The U.S. media, U.S. officials, and even the Zionists are officially declaring that the United States made a mistake by confronting Islamic forces in Iran. It would have been in the U.S. interest to have stayed behind the curtain, they say. Today the United States has proved itself to be a paper tiger, and Iran has proved that it does not fear such seemingly powerful giants. [shouts of "God is great"]

To be fair, one must say that this slogan of yours has come true. That is, Reagan has now been buried in the Persian Gulf. To come here and to leave this military fleet wandering around means both that he has been buried and that he has buried his friends.

Now that it is clear that Iran will not change its line because of such bellowings; now that it is known that such troop arrivals cannot attain anything; now that the southern coast countries of the Persian Gulf have realized that to seek help from the forces of infidelity in the world has no reward but harm; and now that they know that our combat forces are ready to attack to achieve their rights by force, I warn the Arab countries and their masters before the event occurs that you still have time. However, this time is not long. If tomorrow you hear the sound of martial music and the drums of war from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic, then your repentence will do you no good. Now you have time to return through the correct way.

You, the countries of the southern Persian Gulf, what did you achieve from the United States? You have led the way to a point where the deposed U.S. defense secretary, this same wretched Mr Weinberger who brought these vessels here, declared yesterday: I give some advice to you Arab countries—this is a very big remark—if you want to be secure in the future, then give some of your wealth to Israel and make Israel strong because it is the guardian of your interests. See how shameless they are that a U.S. official tells Arabs—those Arabs who say that they have fought Israel for 50 years, and now at a time when the people of Palestine are being torn to pieces in the streets of Jerusalem—to come and provide arms to Israel with their wealth. They have become shameless. What dirt is it that you have done? What stupidity was it that the shaykhs and statelets of the Persian Gulf did, inviting these colonialists here to make them so shameless as to tell you such things in your own home? To make you so wretched as to tell you to give your wealth to make Israel powerful? And you are doing it. The fall in oil price by several dollars in OPEC was done by you—you know it goes into Israel's pocket through the pockets of Britain and the United States from where it finds its way to Tel Viv. [passage omitted]

We do not want anything from you except that you stay neutral. Do not give oil, airspace, oil pipes, roads, and ports so that the Iraqis can come and make the Persian Gulf insecure. Do not give them intelligence. Switch your propaganda to neutrality. If you do so, then you will have a good neighbor to your north, which will be your friend and which is ready to forgive you for your sins. But Saddam's sins cannot be forgiven; he must be punished. [chants] [passage omitted]

If the Iraqi Army performs its duty to the Iraqi people at the last minute by refusing to support this tyranical giant, then it can have a role in the future of Iraq. Otherwise, these same deportees, who are today in Iran and who chant slogans at the Friday prayers that the killers must be avenged, will come to take away your country from your hands to liberate it. God willing, I tell the Iraqi people to regard Iran as your sincere friend; now we are sacrificing ourselves for your sake. Otherwise, Iran is liberated. We are sending our children and our nation to trouble in the war for your sake. [passage omitted]

Be ready for Iranian and Iraqi armies to stand side by side to achieve the usurped rights of the Islamic nations.

Commentary Praises 'New Decrees' on Islamic Rule

NC152049 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1545 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Excerpts] During recent weeks, the country and the revolution have been going through a very sensitive phase as a result of a number of historic dispensations issued by the imam. Various circles consider this development to be a turning point in the process of differentiation of opinion, as well as an effective factor in the future composition of society's major political forces.

The precursor to this development came in remarks made early this [Iranian] year by the Majlis speaker in the presence of the leader of the revolution on the anniversary of the founding of the Majlis. [passage omitted]

The imam did not comment on the Majlis speaker's remarks during this meeting, but a positive response soon followed. The first outcome of this meeting was permission for the government to introduce punishments less stringent than those prescribed by law and investment with the executive power to implement them. This helped to increase the government's capability and power to confront the acute and basic problems of society. The most fruitful results of this remedial initiative were manifested in numerous requests by state officials [to the imam] for advice during the last few weeks. [passage omitted]

A cursory glance at these new decrees shows that Islamic rule has now found its true place in Islamic political jurisprudence. These decrees indicate that in laying the foundations for an Islamic system in the administration of the country and in confronting society's problems and difficulties, the Islamic government is the one that chooses from among the various opinions on jurisprudence. It is also the one that distinguishes right from wrong. In view of its main duties in preserving the system and in helping the growth and development of the country and people, and in light of the need to establish justice and equality and the solution of society's various problems, this means that Islamic rule can either accept or reject peripheral divine orders. The result is the opening of a bright path before the country's decisionmaking and executive system, something that will definitely lead to expectations among the people and revolutionary forces. The outcome of this development, however, will definitely not be limited to just these matters. Placing Islamic rule in its appropriate position will undoubtedly lay the foundation for different political jurisprudence, the growth and evolution of which will offer an efficient and attractive revolutionary theory to movements in the world of Islam.

Khomeyni Reportedly Refuses To Meet Khamene'i

TA151941 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have learned from reliable sources that during the last 10 days 'Ali Khamene'i twice requested a meeting with Ruhollah Khomeyni, but officials of Khomeyni's office replied negatively to both requests. They made it known to the president of the Islamic Republic that if he has anything to say, he should write a letter to Khomeyni. Khamene'i, who finally acceded to writing a letter, never thought that Khomeyni would order the text of his letter to be published by the newspapers.

Commentary on Possible U.S. Force Reduction

NC151844 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1545 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" feature]

[Text] While U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci was visiting the Persian Gulf, scattered reports were heard about a possible reduction of U.S. forces there. These reports, spread by members of Carlucci's entourage, were also termed likely by the U.S. defense secretary himself, who stated that Washington would probably reduce the number of its ships in the Persian Gulf in the near future.

In the wake of these remarks, a wave of great concern spread throughout the Arab countries of the region, so much so that 48 hours later Reagan personally refuted these reports. Shortly thereafter, Carlucci also ruled out such a possibility under the present circumstances.

Many political observers believe that the Americans will have to reduce their forces during the coming months because of the impending U.S. presidential elections. These observers believe that the Republicans have studied all the steps that have been taken in a bid to reduce the possibility of a confrontation in the region and to prevent any unexpected incident that could become a calamity for the party. All the U.S. presidential candidates, with the exception of George Bush and Robert Byrd [as heard], criticize Reagan's policy in the Persian Gulf. But even these two candidates usually try to avoid answering questions on this topic.

U.S. presidential election years are always marked with greater attention on the part of the American people than by observers in assessing the candidates. If the majority of the people opposes the White House's diplomacy in the Persian Gulf, then one can conclude that the U.S. Administration will be greatly concerned about future Persian Gulf developments. In view of the existing atmosphere, if an incident were to be sparked between Iran and the United States, then Reagan would lose the people's support, which he had previously enjoyed, especially as the Democrats are strongly propagandizing about the error in Reagan's policy in this area. This is why the veteran Democratic candidate, Jesse Jackson, tried ostentatiously to inspect U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf. However, fearing a further concentration of the American people's attention to developments in the Persian Gulf, the Pentagon banned any tour of these ships by candidates.

Under such conditions party politics call for more cautious behavior by the Republicans. It is exactly for this reason that political observers consider the possibility of a reduction of forces in the Persian Gulf to be serious, despite refutations by the United States. In this regard, there were some who stated in 1987 that if Iran could postpone a possible confrontation with the United States until 1988, the Americans would undoubtedly be the main losers. In view of their poor record over the past 2 years, the Republicans would not be willing to face a foreign confrontation in 1988. If they do take this risk, they will lose everything on the U.S. domestic scene.

Now 1988 has come. Money is being speedily gathered for more extensive election propaganda. The candidates are carrying out their last rehearsals for the upcoming show in the coming months. The scene should be set for the voters to stop thinking about the parties' dark record. This is why the Republicans—fearing the outcome of the elections—will try to avoid doing something to provoke Iran and spark a confrontation. Under such conditions can one not expect a reduction of U.S. forces in the region?

At the same time, however, the Americans are satanically trying to push issues such as the arms embargo and actions against Iran in arenas like the United Nations and other international forums. On the other hand, they want to present the possibility of a reduction of their forces in the region as a trump card vis-a-vis the Russians so that they will, in turn, join in an arms embargo against Iran. There are indications that the Russians have been tempted into accepting this. However, even if the Americans fail to gain points from any country, they will have to reduce their forces in the Persian Gulf despite repeated refutations.

Another group of political observers links the possibility of a reduction of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf to a different factor, specifically the economic situation in the United States itself. Recent reports speak of a great reduction in the value of the U.S. dollar, which has fallen to the unprecedented level of below 120 Japanese yen. The dollar is losing sharply against the DM, the yen, the British pound, and all other major currencies, and all attempts to end this crisis have proven ineffective. Reductions in European bank interest rates and U.S. expenditures and budgets have not led to any solutions. The dollar is falling, seriously threatening U.S. economic stability. Some economic observers see the future U.S. President plunged into a quagmire of economic problems.

This unfavorable economic situation is acting as yet another weapon in the hands of the Democrats. They are criticizing all the Republicans' financial and monetary policies. They say that the ruling party is reducing welfare expenditures, on the one hand, and spending the taxpayers' money in the Persian Gulf on the other. Although should the Democrats come to power they would be no different from the Republicans, such remarks are extremely misleading for the people in the West, who view everything in the context of their private lives. And this propaganda is inflicting great pressure on the Republicans. These observers believe that such pressure will definitely make Reagan reduce the forces in the Persian Gulf. These are the conditions prevailing within the United States. Precisely because of these conditions, each day that passes in 1988 restricts the parameters of the U.S. Administration's actions. Thus, one can say that everything in the Persian Gulf is now moving contrary to the wishes of the Republicans; therefore, one should expect changes in their policies.

IRGC Commander Invites Press To Visit Battle

LD160858 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan 16, IRNA—An Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) commander in a televised broadcast here Friday evening summed up gains of the Zafar-5 operations launched 200 kms deep inside Iraq early last Tuesday describing it a total success.

According to the commander the Muslim forces of Iran in cooperation with the opposition Iraqi groups and Muslim people of northern Iraq, have established bases in Iraqi Provinces of Al-Sulaymaniyah, Kirkuk, Dahuk, and Irbil. From these bases, he added, operations are launched against the Iraqi regime.

Since the region is mountainous and a large number of the villages are in control of the opposition groups, the Iraqi regime has no control over the area.

The Ramadan Headquarters and units under its command, he told the viewers, organized their attacks from these liberated areas.

More on Zafar-5 operations, he said they were launched in two stages. The first phase was attacking the Iraqi northern city of Dayr Luk [name as received]. In this state through cooperation of the Peshmergas of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party, the city was liberated.

As for the second stage, the IRGC commander said the Muslim forces advanced towards Shiladiza [name as received] and Al-'Amadiyah cities from two directions and all enemy bases on Dayr Luk-Shiladiza and Dayr Luk-al-'Amadiyah axis were taken over and enemy forces were smashed. Enemy casualties in the operations amounted to 1,400 killed or wounded and some 400 were taken captive among them a number of officers.

Furthermore, he added, an enemy Sukhoy-22 was downed and its pilot captured. Large amounts of enemy munitions were seized.

The IRGC commander praised cooperation of the Peshmergas and refuted the Iraqi claim that nothing has happened in northern Iraq. He stressed that the city of Dayr Luk is under the control of Muslim combatants and the opposition Iraqi forces and that they are stationed 4 kms from Shiladiza.

The IRGC commander requested foreign reporters in Baghdad to visit the operational region and report the realities.

As for the situation in the area, he said that battle is reportedly going on between Muslim combatants and the enemy on Shiladiza-al-'Amadiyah axis and the Muslim forces are strengthening their positions and making advances.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,082

LD151625 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Iran's naval forces Thursday intercepted three and cargo [as received] ships in the Strait of Hormuz, but let them proceed since they had no Iraqi-bound cargo aboard, said a military communique here Friday.

The 3082nd communique of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces also said that Iranian Air Force planes carried out their patrol missions in the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea yesterday.

Muslim combatants of Iran further consolidated their defence positions, dispatched patrol groups and shelled Iraqi positions and fortifications throughout the fronts, said the communique, adding that some Iraqi forces were killed and wounded and that parts of their positions in each front were destroyed.

An Iraqi patrol unit attempting to infiltrate Iranian combatants' positions in Panjwin operational region, was forced to flee sustaining casualties, added the communique.

In Qasr-e Shirin and Helaleh, western fronts, motorized movements of Iraqi forces were brought to a halt, it said adding, enemy engineering activities in Nahr-e Anbar were disrupted by heavy fire of the Muslim combatants. Enemy soldiers trying to establish supply channels sustained damage and casualties in this region, it said.

The Muslim combatants of Iran silenced Iraqi tank fire in Panjwin and Yabis, damaging some enemy tanks, the communique said.

In the southern fronts Iran's Gendarmerie forces killed and wounded some Ba'thist troops destroying a boat and some bunkers of theirs, it added.

Kurds Kill 20 Iraqis

LD151730 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 15, IRNA—Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) killed or wounded 20 Ba'thist troops during their operations on the Batoufeh-Zakho [names as received] axis, 250 kms. inside northern Iraq.

Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) irregulars, reporting the above here today added that KDP forces also captured seven troops of the Khafifa (Light) Battalion 56 of Iraq's Division 38 and set afire three enemy vehicles.

The attack was carried out concurrently with Zafar-5 operations, launched 200 kms. deep inside Iraq early last Tuesday.

Communique No 3,083

LD161614 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 16, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and searched eight cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Saturday.

In its 3083th daily communique, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported that the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman yesterday, in support of the Navy.

Iran's Muslim combatants, holding the upper hand, traded artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops throughout the fronts Friday, inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on enemy forces.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements and two vehicles were set ablaze yesterday in parts of the western and southern sectors in artillery duels with Iranian combatants.

In Panjwin, Sumar, Husayniyah and Nahr 'Anbar, Iranian artillery fire inflicted considerable losses on Iraqi tank squadrons, silencing their fire Friday.

Iraqi engineering operations and movement of enemy motorized columns in Sumar, Naft-e Shahr, Zobeydat and 'Eyn Khvosh, western and southern sectors, was checked by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants yesterday.

A number of Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin, Mehran and Yabis Friday sustained several casualties and were forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire, concluded the communique.

New Operation Launched in Mawat

LD170643 Tehran IRNA in English 0631 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Muslim forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran launched new operations in Mawat region, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, code-named Bayt ol-Moqaddas 2 [Sacred City of Jerusalem] Friday at 01:15 hours local time (Thursday 21:45 GMT).

Reports on the losses in men and equipment of the Iraqi Ba'thist enemy will be sent later.

Mawat Heights Occupied

NC170739 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0722 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O brave ummah, please pay attention: The Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters reports that in step with the oppressed people of Palestine, who are fighting the regime occupying Jerusalem, and to punish the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist regime, the soldiers of our monotheistic army succeeded—in the first hours of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations—in occupying the heights opposite the Mawat area. They also managed to completely destroy the Ba'thist enemy's line of sight in the region. Now that the noble fighters of the IRGC ground forces are in control, the heights used by elements affiliated to the counterrevolutionaries have been cleared, and the lines of communication employed by these groups in this part of Iraq have been cut completely.

'Atrocities' Prompt Action

LD170751 Tehran IRNA in English 0743 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—The Bayt al-Moqaddas-2 operations were launched in retaliation for Iraq atrocities against the Kurdish population of the country at 01:15 hours Friday (21:45 GMT Thursday) in Mawat, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, northern Iraq. The operation is code-named 'Ya Zahra' (A.S.).

The ground force of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) after successfully passing the Qal'ah Chulan river and by employing special tactics under rain and snow-covered roads of the area encircled enemy positions and attained their objectives.

Villages, Heights 'Liberated'

LD170800 Tehran IRNA in English 0748 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Iraqi place-names as received]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—Some 110 sq. kms of area in Bayt al-Moqaddas-2 operations launched in Mawat region early Friday morning, have been liberated by the Muslim forces of Iran, said a report from the area. Muslim forces are also stationed in strategic heights of the region.

Muslim combatants have captured the following heights (identified by name and number):

Ahmad Roumi (1652), Ghamishi (1449), 1225, 1473, 1045, 990, Qavilan (2006, 1951, 1895), Kukha heights (1665, 1765), Houdal (1598), Karghalat (1139), 939, Billdowla (1125, 1062), Harmadan (1088, 905, 1190), Kelaleh (1157, 1193), Shilaleh (1785, 1780, 1565), Boujar (1028, 1925, 1956, 1412, 1284).

The villages of Saqrah, Qamish, Dari, Meshkineh Bakhaneh, Zero, and heights overlooking them have also been captured. Muslim combatants have also captured an area three kms in southern sector of Mawat Plain.

Iraqis Suffer 'Heavy' Losses

LD170822 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Operational Theater, Jan. 17, IRNA—Muslim forces of Iran inflicted heavy losses in men and equipment on the Iraqi forces, and smashed several Iraqi battalions and brigades in their operations near Mawat.

Iraqi Infantry Brigades-83 and 630, First Battalion of Infantry Brigade-412, and Nissan-7 Tank Battalion were destroyed by 80 percent, First Battalion of Brigade 81 and Commando Battalion of Division-39 by 50 percent and Artillery Battalion-53 by 30 percent.

Muslim forces also destroyed 10 tanks and personnel carriers, a large number of engineering equipment, 40 vehicles, 20 mortar launchers, 10 anti-aircraft pieces, and a large amount of telecommunication instruments.

1,500 Iraqis Killed, Wounded

LD170826 Tehran IRNA in English 0820 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Operational Region, Jan. 17, IRNA—Muslim forces of Iran inflicted heavy casualties on the Iraqi enemy in the course of the fresh operations Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2, launched in Mawat region of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, early Friday.

Latest report from the operational theater puts the number of Iraqi casualties at 1,500. Some 550 Iraqi militarymen including 30 officers and 100 NCO's have been captured.

Army Advance Continues

LD170835 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0801 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpt] The warriors of the monotheistic army are continuing their unstinting fight against the Ba'thist infidels. They have reached the western bank of the Qal'ah Chulan River, and have liberated another 43 square km of Iraqi territory in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Units Retreat

LD170852 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0816 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: The wretched and defeated enemy, afraid to stand and fight the warriors of Islam, has been forced to flee from the villages of (Ghamish) and (Jarb) on the (Hamadah) Plain. Our latest reports note that during the liberation of these highlands, more than 250 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded by the warriors of Islam, and another 100 were captured.

Weapons, Vehicles Seized

LD170943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0838 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to our latest report, which we have just received: In the course of their victorious "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations, the Islamic forces have managed to capture dozens of tanks and APC's intact. They were also able to seize engineering equipment and other military hardware from the infidel forces.

According to reports from IRNA correspondents in the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operational area, the Islamic forces captured 15 tanks and APC's, 8 engineering vehicles, 70 other vehicles, 70 mortars of various types, 15 antiaircraft guns, a large number of light weapons and equipment, and stocks of clothing and other hardware.

24 Heights Captured

LD171006 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0919 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, we have a report from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, which states: Having gained control of another 7 strategic and sensitive heights west of the Qal'ah Chulan River, the brave forces involved in the victorious "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operation have liberated 24 summits since the action began.

Height 1139 of (Pol-e-Qal'at); Height 993 and Heights 1157 and 1193 in (Jalalah); and Heights 1785, 1780, and 1565 in (Shilalah) are among those areas newly freed.

As these heights were being cleared, the village of (Saftah) was cleansed of the Ba'thist mercenaries.

Kharrazi on Operational Goals

LD170953 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0819 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Interview with Kamal Kharrazi, head of the War Information Headquarters, by unidentified correspondent; carried as an "unscheduled announcement"; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Kharrazi, the warriors of Islam have launched their "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operation, which is going well. As director of the War Information Headquarters, could you tell us about the action's objectives?

[Kharrazi] In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate. The "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations are part of a series of actions which, with God's blessing, we will execute completely henceforth. Their goal, in fact, is to gain a vantage point above and beyond the heights we have already taken. The enemy had held those places, and from there we can pour fire on the town of Mawat. Now that we have captured these heights, God willing, we will gain bases from which to launch new operations. We will also be in a good position to continue our activity until we achieve our major objectives in this region.

Here is a point of great importance: These operations, and our readiness for others across the front, are all positive results of our phased dispatch project. That program has been in place in our country for some time. Under its terms, people register, and many do register, to join the corps from the provinces. We can say with certainty that we are ready, in several senses of the word, to attack the enemy at the front. God willing, we will execute, continue, and complete other operations.

The enemy must be aware of the possibility that we will rain down on them at any moment. As such, they must prepare to surrender to us. In addition, the name we have given these operations, "Bayt-ol Moqaddas," has and can have some very deep and interesting meanings for the Muslims of the region and for the Muslims and other people of Palestine. It means that the victory of the Muslims of Palestine and our victory with the Iraqi mujahidin are linked. In fact, they are two sides of the same coin. The downfall and punishment of the aggressor regime in Iraq will be the precursor to the triumph of Muslims in the region and in Palestine. From our point of view, Iraq's Zionist Ba'thist regime is one obstacle to the flood of the Islamic revolution, which has as its primary goal the destruction of the regime occupying Jerusalem.

With these and subsequent operations, we have decided to punish the Iraqi regime with our own hands. This will teach the Muslims of the world that one cannot wait and rely on others in their wish that one day, ultimately, they will be free. They must move themselves. Each must decide his own fate and expel injustice from his own society.

[Correspondent] I am grateful indeed.

[Kharrazi] Under these very sensitive circumstances, we must demand that our people participate in the phased dispatch program and our "Help the Fighters" ["Ansar al-Mojahedin"] project. This will allow our warriors to do their duty with peace of mind.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Dr Kharrazi.

'Adverse' Weather Overcome

LD171143 Tehran IRNA in English 1105 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Operational Region, Jan. 17, IRNA—Muslim forces of the Islamic Republic carried out the newly-started operations in adverse weather conditions while the whole region was covered with snow, and added a new golden page to the history of their victories.

Having smiles of victory on their sturdy faces, Muslim combatants who have always stressed the punishment of the aggressor Iraqi Ba'thist regime deprived any movements from the enemy troops.

The basiji (volunteer) forces mounted all arduous heights full of abrupt turns covered with white snow breaking through several minefields, booby traps, various barricades and barbed wires, which portrays their firm determination to punish the aggressor.

The continuous efforts of the engineering, support and construction jihad units in setting up bridges, supply routes deep inside valleys and upon the high mountain peaks particularly on the range of mountains liberated in Nasr-8 operations opened the way for Muslim combatants. The artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) uninterruptedly shelled the position of Iraqi Ba'thist forces.

Participants in the Bayt ol-Moqaddas operations said the operations were unprecedented from the point of speed in oppressive weather conditions and that it has paved the way for liberation of strategic regions in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province.

IRNA correspondent from the battlefield reports that the destroyed bunkers, equipments left from the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist enemy prove the power of Muslim combatants and reveal the despair of the enemy forces.

Communique Views Mawat Victories

LD171312 Tehran IRNA in English 1254 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—At least 1,500 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and 550 others, including 30 officers and 100 NCOs, captured in Bayt- ol-Moqaddas operations launched by Iran's Muslim forces in Mawat town in the northeastern Iraqi province of Al-Sulaymaniyah early Friday, said a military communique here Sunday.

The communique released by Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters said that the attacking combatants destroyed Iraqi Infantry Brigades 83 and 603, the 1st Battalion of Brigade 412 and Nissan 7 tank battalion by 80 percent, commando battalions of the 39th Division and the 1st Battalion of Brigade 81 by 50 percent and Artillery Battalion 53 by 30 percent during the operations.

The Khatem-ol-Anbiya' communique added that commander of Iraqi Brigade 83 Naqib Latif Jasim Husayn is among the POWs.

A large number of Iraqi tanks, armoured personnel carriers, mortar launchers, anti-aircraft guns and vehicles were destroyed and 15 tanks and armoured personnel carriers, 70 mortar launchers, 75 vehicles, 16 anti-aircraft guns, a considerable number of weapons and a good deal of communication sets, engineering equipment and ammunition were seized intact by Iran's Muslim combatants, it said.

According to the communique, the Iranian forces also liberated 29 key heights in the operational theater including Heights 1598, 1652, 1449, 1225, 1473, 1045, 990, 993 and 1139 and Gojar, Vavilan, Harmadan, Shilaneh, Kukha, Beindola and Gelaleh Heights as well as the villages of Qamish, Dari, Saqra, Meshkineh and Basava. [place-names as received]

During the operations another 110 square kms of land west of Mawat town was liberated by Muslim forces of Iran, the communique said.

It said that the operations, code-named 'Ya Zahra (A.S.)' once again showed that Muslim forces of Iran will never abandon their struggles till the Ba'thist Iraqi regime is toppled.

Iran's Muslim combatants broke through countless natural and artificial obstacles such as snow-covered cliffs, arduous mountainous paths, mine fields, booby traps and barbed wire fences, before crossing the Qal'at Chulan River and taking control of heights west of Mawat town by employing mountain warfare tactics, it said.

International organizations have failed in taking measures to restore denied rights of Iranian people to them, the communique said, adding that only on the battlefields, Muslim forces of Iran can force the enemy to accept justice.

The communique said that Iranian forces and the oppressed Palestinian Muslims are fighting two aggressor regimes on two separate fronts and that an eventual Iranian victory over the Baghdad regime will entail downfall of the regime occupying Holy Qods.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' is the joint headquarters of the Army and the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Communique 3,084

LD171635 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 17, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman Saturday in support of the Navy despite receiving a warning from a foreign warship, said a military communique here Sunday.

In its 3084th daily communique, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces reported that naval gunboats decisively continued to control shipping in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday.

Meanwhile, Iran's Muslim combatants reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions, supply routes and motorized columns throughout the battlefields Saturday inflicting heavy losses in men and equipment on enemy troops, it added.

In the northwestern sector Iranian artillery fire destroyed three Iraqi loaders operating in Panjwin war theater Saturday, killing all their crew members.

The artillery fire of the Muslim combatants prevented Iraqi troops from digging canals in Qasr-e Shirin, Kani Shaykh and Helaleh, western fronts yesterday.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed when Iranian combatants shelled an Iraqi tank squadron which had opened fire on their positions in Qasr-e Shirin Saturday.

On Saturday, an Iraqi patrol convoy attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Nahr 'Anbar, western fronts, Saturday was forced to flee after it came under the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

In Yabis, southern sector, an Iraqi tank squadron comprising 20 tanks suffered heavy losses yesterday when shelled by the Muslim forces of Iran.

Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces Saturday, concluded the communique.

Film of Operation Shown

LD180540 Tehran IRNA in English 0535 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—While the Iraqi Ba'thist regime denies the victories of Muslim combatants in Bayt ol-Moqaddas 2 operations the Iranian T.V. screened a 20-minute footage of these victories Sunday night.

Parts of the 110 kms territories liberated during these operations as well as several bunkers of the Iraqis occupied in hte Mawat region were shown in the film.

Several liberated snow-covered heights in the operational region and parts of booties such as tanks, artillery guns, mortar launchers, communication sets and various vehicles could be seen.

The advance of a group of Muslim combatants to new positions and consolidation of newly-captured positions and purging the region of Saddam's (Husayn) forces by another group of Muslim forces indicated the full control of Muslim troops over the region, whose victories have been denied by a military Ba'thist spokesman.

The T.V. also showed groups of Iraqi POWs chanting 'Death to Saddam', some of them carrying photos of Imam Khomeyni while they were being sent behind front lines.

While a group of Iranian forces were marching toward the frontline another group of them were seen carrying the spoils of war.

The high spirit of Muslim forces and lack of any resistance by the Iraqi Ba'thists proved full control of Muslim forces over the operational region.

An interview with some of the Iraqi POWs was shown at the end of the footage.

Qamish Valley Captured

LD180826 Tehran IRNA in English 0814 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Operational Region, Jan. 18, IRNA—Muslim forces of Iran started the second stage of Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 operations around Mawat region early Sunday.

The Muslim combatants captured Heights Number 1100, 1155, 1286, 1837 and 1787 overlooking Qamish Valley and the strategic valley itself, liberating another 20 square kms of Iraqi territory.

2d Phase of Action Detailed

LD181202 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Communique issued by Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters on 18 January on the second phase of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Muhammad, the prophet of God, and his followers, are harsh with the infidels and merciful with each other. [Koranic verse]

Heroic and brave ummah! The gallant exploits of your ever-victorious forces continue to stain the battlefields of the war between truth and falsehood with the blood of Saddamist mercenaries. The victorious forces of monotheism have continued their sacred defense. Relying on God Almighty, the second phase of the victorious "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations began at dawn yesterday in the Mawat region of Iraq's Al-Sulaymaniyah Province. Despite adverse weather conditions, the heroic men of the IRGC ground forces managed to liberate another three heights in the Gujar range and to clear Heights 1,100 and 1,155 overlooking the strategic Gavmish Valley. This was the result of their own steadfastness and praiseworthy tenacity, and the introduction of precise and innovative tactics of mountain warfare. By cleansing this valley of the filthy presence of our desperate enemy, the area liberated during the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations has grown to more than 130 square km.

In the course of these actions, and in the face of adverse weather conditions, repeated flights by the brave pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran played a key role in ferrying supplies and dealing blows to enemy troop concentrations and armored units.

The desperate enemy was unable to withstand the brave offensive launched by the warriors of Islam and fled in disgrace before our gallant men. They regrouped their weak forces in a bid to compensate for their defeats, and carried out two counteroffensives involving the 2d Commando Brigades from the I and V Corps, a commando battalion attached to the 24th Divison, and the 413th Infantry Brigade, which had already lost one of its battalions. However, these counteroffensives also met with defeat, with losses of more than 80 percent among the units taking part. The remnants of the mercenary Saddamist forces fled the region, paralyzed by their fear of the brave forces of monotheism. In addition to the destruction of the 1st Commando Brigade of the I Corps, this phase of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operation has seen the destruction of between 70 and 90 percent of the 3d Brigade of the Special Presential Guards, and a commando battalion attached to the 41st Division.

More than 3,500 enemy soldiers have been killed or wounded since the action began, while 750 enemy POW's have been transferred behind the lines in the general region of Mawat. This figure includes a number of commanders and other officers from various units of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

During this phase of the operations, the powerful forces of Islam also managed to destroy a large amount of equipment and weapons and to capture intact a large quantity of enemy weapons and other hardware. The booty included a Razit radar, dozens of mortars, different types of light and medium weapons, a number of vehicles, and enemy engineering equipment. There is no help but from God, the beloved, the all-wise. [Koranic verse]

Iraqi Officers Killed, Wounded

LD181210 Tehran IRNA in English 1143 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Operational Region, Jan. 18, IRNA—Muslim forces of Iran killed or wounded six Iraqi senior officers and captivated [as received] another one in the second stage of Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 operations started early Sunday.

Bodies of Colonel Muwafiq, commander of Infantry Brigade 603, Colonel Husayn, ideological indoctrination officer of Brigade Three of Presidential Guards Brigade, and commander of Battalion Three of Brigade Three were identified among those killed in the battlefield.

Commander of Battalion Three of Brigade 603 Major 'Abd al-Tahir was also captivated.

The Iraqi commanders captivated during the operation admitted that Colonel Adel, an Iraqi Ba'thist commander as well as Major Mahdi Muhammad Salih, commander of Battalion Nine of Commando Brigade Two, and Colonel Jabar Najm Sabir commander of the First Commando Battalion are among those injured.

Communique 3,085

LD181705 Tehran IRNA in English 1644 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 18, IRNA—The Islamic Republic Air Force decisively continued its reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman in support of the Navy Sunday despite receiving three warnings from foreign warships, according to a military communique here Monday.

The 3085th Joint Staff Communique reported that Iran's Muslim combatants, holding the upper hands traded artillery and mortar fire with Iraqi troops throughout the fronts yesterday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and an enemy munitions dump, a vehicle and several various bunkers were destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian gendarmerie forces Sunday.

Three Iraqi patrol units attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Qasr-e Shirin, Nahr 'Anbar and 'Ayn al-Qush, western and southern fronts, yesterday were forced to flee by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

In Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, Iran's Muslim combatants shelled a group of Iraqi infantrymen attempting to dig bunkers and canals yesterday, killing or wounding several of them. An enemy motorized column moving in this war theater yesterday sustained heavy losses by Iranian artillery fire, concluded the communique.

4,000 Iraqi Troops Wounded

LD190949 Tehran IRNA in English 0938 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—The third stage of the Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 operations was launched at 22:00 hours local time (18:30 GMT), Monday with the code name 'Ya Zahra'.

Heights No. 1775 (Waysi), and a connection path from the summit Viollon [as received] to Waysi was mopped up. The Iraqi city Qal'at Dizah is now partly within the range of the fire of Muslim combatants. 500 Iraqis have been killed or wounded and another 150 captured in Al-Sulaymaniyah since Monday night.

The villages Galan and Zarun were taken over by Muslim combatants and security is now established on the strategic heights Korkor and on peaks No. 2545, 2301, 2482 and the heights of Shaykh Muhammad north of peaks No. 2353, 2491, 2346, 2944, 2366, and 2166 in Al-Sulaymaniyah Province of Iraq. 4,000 Iraqi soldiers have been wounded in combats with Iran's Muslim combatants since the start of the operations early Friday morning, and another 900 have been captured.

A considerable haul of weaponry and logistic equipment of the enemy were either demolished or seized intact by Muslim forces of Iran Monday and early Tuesday morning. Six mortar launchers and one anti-aircraft artillery piece are among those seized by Muslim combatants.

Commander Cited on Operations

LD190955 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 19, IRNA—At least 500 Iraqi POW's, captured in the course of the ongoing victorious Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 operations in Mawat region north-eastern Iraq, have so far been tranferred to the rear parts of the fronts and there are still more others to be sent to POW camps, said an Iranian commander in a TV interview aired Monday night.

He said that the disarrayed enemy troops, failing to stand blows of Muslim combatants, fled the operational theater in bewilderment, a large number of whom were captured. The commander noted that Muslim combatants approached enemy positions on the high snow-covered mountains from seven axes and in a surprise attack seized the positions.

He said that in the second stage of Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2 operations the Muslim combatants broke through all barricades and reached their pre-determined targets in the early hours of their surprise attack.

The commander said that the defense lines of the demoralized enemy forces who did not expect the attack collapsed in the first two hours.

He added that a large group of Ba'thist troops, wandering in the high mountains due to the attack of Muslim combatants, were either killed or wounded.

3d Phase of Operations Reviewed

LD191154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Communique issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters on 19 January on the third phase of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. Muhammad, the prophet of God, and his followers are harsh with infidels and kind with each other. O you zealous and heroic ummah of Iran! The courageous fighters of the IRGC ground forces continue their sacred defense with the goal of punishing the aggressive Ba'thist regime.

With faith in God Almighty and their own firm resolve to eliminate sedition from the general sector of Mawat, they launched the third phase of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations at 2200 yesterday. During this phase, conducted under extremely adverse weather conditions, the warriors of the corps of monotheism, by leaving natural and harassing obstacles behind, managed to cross the little Zab River in northwest Mawat. They took full control of the important strategic height of Karkar, the highest in the region, and seized Heights 2545, 2482, and 2301, the six heights, and a connecting path from the main summit of (Viollon) to Veysi.

Thanks to the success scored by our fighters in taking control of these heights, the villages of Zarvan and Galan were liberated and cleansed. On the left flank of the Iraqi town of Qal'at Diza, the villages of Genu, (Wisawi), and Changuleh, as well as the main road from the Genu outpost to Qal'at Dizah, came under direct fire from the defenders of Islam.

Another 15 square km of territory in the Iraqi province of Al-Sulaymaniyah were liberated in the third phase of "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2." This brought the total amount of land seized since the start of the action to more than 145 square km. In the same phase, an additional 500 Ba'thist mercenaries were killed or wounded and more than 150 were taken prisoner, bringing the total number of enemy casualties to more than 4,000. The number of POW's taken behind the lines since the operation began is now 900. A considerable quantity of enemy arms and equipment was either completely destroyed or set ablaze, while other hardware was captured intact by the fighters of Islam as booty.

Today, your warrior sons, while guarding the regions liberated during the first and second segments of the "Bayt ol-Moqaddas-2" operations, are consolidating the positions recently captured in this phase of the action. There is no help but from God Almighty. [Koranic verse]

REUTER Cited on Attack on Liberian Tanker

NC160652 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Yesterday, a few hours after attacking the Norwegian tanker ("Loizukov") in the Strait of Hormuz, gunboats attacked a Liberian registered tanker in the southern Persian Gulf. Reporting this news, REUTER cited [words indistinct] and shipping sources in the area and added: The 36,750-ton tanker named the "Atlantic Charisma", which was flying the Liberian flag, was attacked 15 nautical miles from the port of Jabal 'Ali near the UAE.

Further on Tanker Attack

NC160721 Paris AFP in English 0704 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, Jan 16 (AFP)—A tanker flying the Liberian flag, the Atlantic Charisma, was attacked on Friday by Iranian speedboats off the coast of the United Arab Emirates in the south of the Gulf, regional maritime sources said Saturday.

According to the sources, the tanker sustained only "minor damage", although they were unable to say whether any of the crew had been injured.

They gave the tanker's position at the time of the attack as 25.10 degrees latitude north and 54.25 degrees longitude east, around 100 kilometres (60 miles) north of Abu Dhabi.

Chemical Tanker Attacked

NC161605 Paris AFP in English 1558 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Manama, Jan 16 (AFP)—Iranian gunboats attacked a small Liberian-registered chemical tanker Saturday afternoon in the Strait of Hormuz, triggering a fire and forcing the crew to abandon ship, regional shipping sources here said.

A French Navy ship rescued the crew of the 12,000-ton Rainbow, who were uninjured, said French sources in the Gulf. The fire was brought under control.

The insurers Lloyd's of London confirmed the attack, saying that the chemical products tanker had sustained "fairly serious" damage, mainly in the engine room.

The Rainbow, which was sailing from a port on the Arab side of the Gulf, was the third neutral vessel attacked by Iranian gunboats in 24 hours.

Iran attacks ships trading with Arab Gulf countries, mainly Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, in retaliation for Iraqi air strikes on tankers near the Iranian coast.

Pakistan

'Official' Source Rejects Bonn Uranium Report

BK171149 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 17 (AFP)—Pakistan Sunday strongly rejected a report in Bonn that nuclear waste from West Germany had been diverted to Pakistan.

"The allegation was part of a calculated campaign to malign Pakistan (and) to cast aspersions on its nuclear programme which was totally for peaceful purposes", the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN (APP) quoted an official source as saying.

The report in Bonn earlier this week said that the case of two barrels of nuclear waste containing uranium which had gone missing or were otherwise unaccounted for while being shipped to Belgium for processing had been the subject of an inquiry by the authorities in West Germany and Belgium.

The barrels were allegedly secretly shipped to Libya and Pakistan by a West German firm called Nukem.

The official source quoted by APP, who was not identified, refuted the allegations. The source said the West German and Belgian authorities had denied the Bonn report and said there was "no proof" of any such shipment to Pakistan.

Both Interpol and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had found "no evidence to support the charge," the source said.

"It was interesting to note (that) some irresponsible elements in the Western press automatically start imputing motives that any such thing found missing anywhere finds its way to Pakistan or Libya", the source said.

Allegation 'Absolutely Baseless'

BK171542 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] An official source has described as absolutely baseless the allegation that some nuclear material has been sent to Pakistan from the FRG. The source said that the FRG and Belgium had already refuted this allegation and that the International Atomic Energy Commission, which is investigating the case, has not obtained any proof supporting the allegation that fission material has been supplied to Pakistan and Libya.

Soviets To Lease Nuclear Submarines to India

BK171025 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Ghani Erabi commentary]

[Text] India's acquisition of four [as heard] nuclear submarines from the Soviet Union shatters the dream of the Indian Ocean remaining a nuclear-free zone and proclaims India's ambition to push beyond national defense to foreign adventurism. Nuclear submarines are designed to venture far out from home bases stealthily and for long stretches of time. The (?age) of nuclear power eliminates the necessity of submarines' surfacing to recharge their batteries or touching home bases to refuel, and the quieter engine prevents detection, enabling the submarine to coil around stealthily and pounce on unwary victims.

The nuclear reactor is not open to international inspection and whether the Soviet submarines leased out to India are actually equipped with any nuclear warhead is not known. But they definitely are designed to carry nuclear warheads. The India-Soviet deal will accelerate the nuclearization of the Indian Ocean, ringed round by the world's largest concentration of human population. This is sadly regrettable, coming as it does in two countries protesting the loudest about keeping South Asia and the Indian Ocean nuclear-free.

India, which has been objecting so vigorously even to an occasional passing through of the American fleet for fear of nuclear contamination, now plans to station four to six nuclear submarines permanently smack in the middle of the Indian Ocean. And the Soviet Union, which has been threatening Pakistan with dire consequences even for seeking nuclear capability, is itself violating the sanctity of South Asia by enhancing the nuclear capability of India. It is such moral flexibilities that destroy moral potentials.

Islamabad so far has assiduously avoided making any comments on India's massive arms build-up on grounds that every country is the best judge of its own defense requirements. But the acquisition of nuclear submarines is a different ball game. The purpose here is not self-defense but to project the country's power and influence well beyond its frontiers. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman has rightly underlined the wreckless expansion of India's military power, totally disproportionate to its legitimate defense needs, which cannot but intensify perception of insecurity in the neighborhood. He has also pinpointed the Soviet Union's role in topping the supply of offensive weapons systems to India over the years with lease of nuclear submarines now. This unbalanced policy, the spokesman has emphasized, aids and assists in heightening the threat to other countries in South Asia and betrays an extraordinary disregard for the imperatives of peace and security in this region.

A U.S. Government spokesman has said the USA is opposed to any transfer of nuclear reactors without international safeguards and has asked India for clarification. The Soviet-leased nuclear submarines to India should be an eye-opener to those U.S. elements who are obstructing the lease to Pakistan of unarmed AWACS aircraft that can warn Pakistan of the approach of sneak enemy raiders across the long frontier on the northwest and from the sea to its south.

Junejo Views Afghanistan, Siachen Situation

BK181555 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said that Pakistan wants to contribute toward the settlement of the Afghanistan problem in accordance with the wishes of the Afghan brethren. He made this statement to newsmen at Quetta airport today prior to his departure for Rawalpindi.

Commenting on the Siachen Glacier situation, he asserted that no extraordinary event has taken place in this area.

With regard to the recent elections of local bodies, the prime minister stated that he was fully satisfied with their outcome, noting that they were held by an elected government. He added that people of like minds with the Muslim League were the most successful in these elections, especially the chairmen of the district councils of the four provinces, who are of the same mind as the Muslim League.

When asked whether the next senate elections will be held on a party basis, the prime minister replied that the general consensus is that these elections should be held on such a basis. However, the final decision about this will be made by the Pakistan Muslim League's working party, which will meet in Islamabad on the 26th of this month.

Responding to a question about the future of the nonregistered political parties, he said that in the case of elections being held on a party basis, each person has to abide by the enforced law in the country.

Curfew Imposed in Karachi Area; Army on Patrol

BK181022 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1000 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] A curfew was imposed on the entire area under the Shah Faysal Colony police station for an indefinite period beginning at 1500 today following clashes between rival groups in the Shah Faysal Colony of Karachi this morning. Official sources have confirmed that two people were killed and four others were injured in the exchange of fire between these groups. Many houses and shops were attacked and set on fire. The Army is patrolling the area and, according to reports, the situation is now under control but tense. The official sources told our correspondent a short while ago that that a break in the curfew will be announced after a detailed assessment of the situation is completed.

Sri Lanka

Finance Minister Calls for Elections 'Soon'

BK160348 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan finance minister, Mr Ronnie De Mel, has said elections in the country must be held as soon as possible. Addressing a meeting in Colombo yesterday, he said a majority of the people in the country desire peace and want the elections to be held soon. Mr De Mel hoped that people of all opinions in Sri Lanka, including the Janata Vimukthi Peramuna and the LTTE, will cooperate with the government in holding the elections at the earliest possible.

The LTTE launched an attack on Valachchenai police station in Batticaloa District yesterday, which was repulsed after 2 hours of shoot out. One LTTE man was killed. The Peacekeeping Force is patrolling the area.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, reports that the Jaffna University will reopen before the end of this month, and examinations are expected to be held in the first week of March.

Elections Answer to Problems

BK170925 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0659 GMT 16 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 16 (LANKA PUWATH)—"Peace and polls, polls and peace, these are the matters that most concern the people of this country today. Both are inter-connected. Without peace there can be no polls, and without polls there can be no peace", said Mr Ronnie De Mel, minister of finance and planning, addressing the National Exporters' Association at their first annual general meeting at the Sri Lanka Foundation Institute yesterday.

According to a report in today's 'DAILY NEWS' Mr De Mel was the chief guest at this meeting. Mr Patrick Amerasinghe, president of the National Exporters' Association, presided.

"Ninety-five per cent of the people of this country fervently desire peace and even more than 95 per cent hope for elections soon. Elections are the essence of democracy. We must have provincial council elections, parliamentary elections and presidential elections as soon as possible. The people of this country of all parties including the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] and LTTE should cooperate with the government to ensure peace so that we can hold elections as soon as possible. The problem is how to obtain peace. There are many political solutions which are feasible but I will not talk of them today. The military option is not the only option.

"This year and next year should be the high-water mark of the elections in this land. We should hold more elections during this period than ever before. Without elections and peace, all this talk of economic development, employment and exports will be futile. The country received a setback in 1983 from which it will take a very long time to recover.

"Due to the resilience of our economy and very sound economic and financial management, [passage indistinct] but, we cannot go on in a state of unrest and insecurity forever. So, all of you should support peace and elections.

"Exports is a priority area which this government has always tried to sponsor. 'Export or perish' should not be only a slogan. It should be a way of life in Sri Lanka. Every budget since 1977 has given various tax holidays, tax incentives, investment reliefs, depreciation allowances, turnover tax concessions, duty exemptions, duty rebate schemes, financial assistance, concessions in import and export duties and every other conceivable concession possible for exports.

"Even in the last budget the greatest concessions were given me for exports. I am sorry that the export sector has not developed enough in proportion to the concessions that have been granted by the government. This is also due largely to the state of insecurity that has prevailed in this country for the last five years since 1983. It is difficult to expect either local investors or foreign investors to make any worthwhile investment in a situation like this.

"Therefore, the only solution for our problems is to overcome this situation by early elections and peace. It is no doubt easier to talk of peace than to achieve it, but I do not think the problem is insoluble if we all approach it unitedly in the correct way and in the correct spirit."

Finance Minister Resigns From Cabinet

BK180748 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The Sri Lankan finance minister, Mr Ronnie De Mel, has resigned from the Cabinet. The president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, dropped Mr De Mel from the working committee of the ruling United National Party yesterday. Announcing his resignation, Mr De Mel reiterated that peace and elections were the only way to save the country.

Further on Resignation

BK181122 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Minister of Finance and Planning Ronnie De Mel resigned his portfolio this morning. Addressing a news conference at his ministry, Mr De Mel said he had sent his resignation to the president this morning. He said he would remain a member of the UNP and continue to be an MP.

Mr De Mel said he served the government and the people to the best of his ability as minister of finance and planning for over 10 years. He said he did not have any regrets or bitterness with anyone. He described the country's economy as the only saving ways and the only redeeming feature amidst detonation and destruction. He said the whole world is amazed at the way he kept the economy going particularly after 1983. He praised the officials of his ministry as a set of most wonderful, efficient, and loyal officers and thanked them sincerely.

New Ministers Sworn In

BK191255 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1245 GMT 19 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 19 (LANKA PUWATH)—Minister of State Dr Anandatissa De Alwis was sworn in as minister of information by Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene this evening at the presidential secretariat in Colombo, the Information Department told LANKA PUWATH.

Dr De Alwis now holds two portfolios, that of state and of information.

Deputy Minister of Finance and Planning Mr M.H.M. Naina Marikkar was sworn in as minister of finance and planning.

Mr J.G. Wijeratne Banda was sworn in as deputy minister of information.

Mr John Amaratunge was sworn in as deputy minister of finance and planning.

LTTE Attack on Police Station Repulsed

BK151356 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1353 GMT 15 Jan 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Jan 15 (LANKA PUWATH)—An LTTE terrorist attack on the police station at Valaichznai in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province district of Batticaloa this afternoon was repulsed, police told LANKA PUWATH.

They said that the attack which commenced at 1600 hours (local time) continued for about two hours when the terrorists fled as they were getting the worst of the exchange of fire.

One terrorist was killed.

There were no police casualties.

Police said the Indian peacekeeping force (IPKF) were now patrolling the area to prevent any fresh attacks.

Indian Troops Kill 3 LTTE Men, Injure 4

BK171614 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, three LTTE men were killed and four injured during operations by the peacekeeping force in the Northern and Eastern Provinces.

An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that in search operations in the Jaffna Peninsula 12,000 rounds of ammunition and large quantity of explosives were recovered.

The spokesman said offices, banks, and educational institutions functioned normally despite threats by the LTTE.

LTTE Aids 55 Prisoners in Jail Escape

BK190833 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0727 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 19 (LANKA PUWATH)—About 55 prisoners were reported to have escaped from Batticaloa jail this morning as a gang of LTTE terrorists held the prison guards at gunpoint, a senior police official told LANKA PUWATH.

He said eight terrorists had broken into the jail at 1000 hours (local time).